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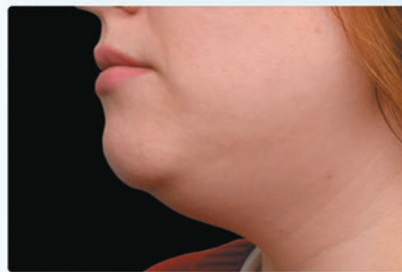
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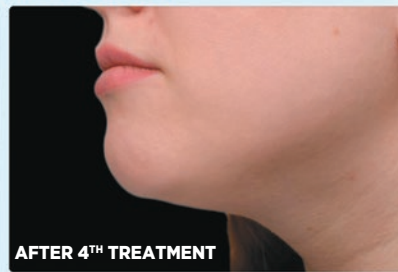
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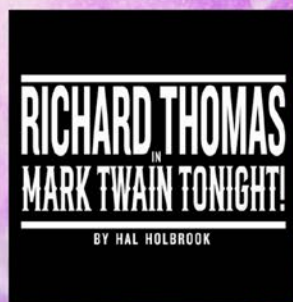
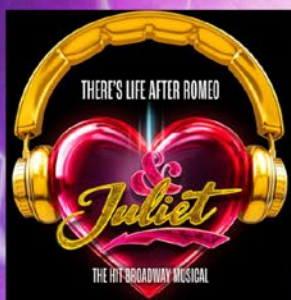
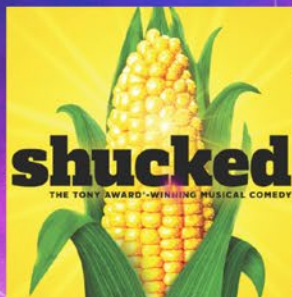
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WHERE WE'RE GOING,



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Explore

the Shoals

ABOUT US

16

THE SHOALS

Distinguishing the four cities:

FLORENCE

MUSCLE SHOALS

SHEFFIELD

TUSCUMBIA

ATTRACTIONS

22

FAMILY FRIENDLY
MUNICIPAL PARKS

30

COMMUNITY
THEATERS

MOVIE THEATER

32

MUSEUMS

FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

48

CELEBRATE
WITH US

56

RENAISSANCE FAIRE

58

1 TABLE ENCOURAGES
UNITY AMONG
NEIGHBORS

59

ANNUAL FARM TOY
SHOW IS AN AYCOCK
FAMILY TRADITION

60

AMANDA CHAPMAN
FINDS SECOND
PASSION IN MAKEUP,
COSTUMING

62

FAMILY'S HEIRLOOM
QUILT DONATED TO
BELLE MONT

LODGING

64

SHOALS AREA
LODGING

66

RENAISSANCE SHOALS
RESORT & SPA

68

GUNRUNNER
BOUTIQUE HOTEL

70

THE STRICKLIN HOTEL

MUSIC

72

SONGS RECORDED IN
THE SHOALS

TRIVIA

74

FAMOUS
SHOALS FACES

82

MYTHS & LEGENDS

OUTDOORS

86

CAMPGROUNDS

88

THE BEST 18 HOLES
IN THE SHOALS

95

SHOALS AREA
GOLF COURSES

96

TAKE A HIKE

100

RIVER HERITAGE
TRAIL

102

SINGING RIVER
SCULPTURE

PLACES TO SEE

104

10 MUST-SEE SITES
while visiting the Shoals

112

DAY TRIPS

116

VISITOR CENTER
AT MCFARLAND PARK

TIME TO EAT

117

TIME TO EAT
Shoals area places to dine

22



46

100



116

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Welcome to the Shoals!

Activities in and around the Shoals have been plentiful so far this year, and it looks like they will only get bigger and better with each passing month!

Inside this magazine, we'll give you a glimpse of the four cities which comprise the Shoals: Florence in Lauderdale County, Muscle Shoals, Sheffield and Tuscumbia in Colbert County.

Visit them all and the surrounding areas. Some have special celebrations you can't miss out on like 1 Table in downtown Florence, the Farm Toy Show in Sheffield and the Dickens Christmas Festival in Tuscumbia.

The area is also a perfect place to enjoy the outdoors, whether it be down by the river fishing or hiking the miles of trails throughout Colbert, Lauderdale and Franklin counties. The creeks and branches of the Tennessee River also lend themselves to great sailing, kayaking and canoeing.

The Shoals also is known for its music and the great musicians who have recorded right here. There are so many places and events to explore throughout the year to soak up and enjoy. Some of the events to enjoy, just to name a few, include the W.C. Handy Festival, the Belle Mont Celtic Festival, Sledgefest and the return of ShoalsFest. Then there are plenty of places to visit to soak up the rich music history such as the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, FAME Studios and Muscle Shoals Sound Studio.

The Shoals has a rich history and its fair share of myths and legends. Long before the first track was recorded here, the American Indians fittingly nicknamed the Tennessee River the "Singing River." You'll also find that one of the most notorious criminals in our nation's history paid a visit to the Shoals.

Take your time to absorb all that the Shoals has to offer. You'll understand why countless visitors return because just being here gets better and better. We're confident you'll agree that the Shoals should be added to your travel plans every year.

ON THE COVER



Photograph by Dan Busey

An American Legion Post 31 member salutes the American flag during Colbert County's Annual Memorial Day Program outside of the Colbert County Courthouse.

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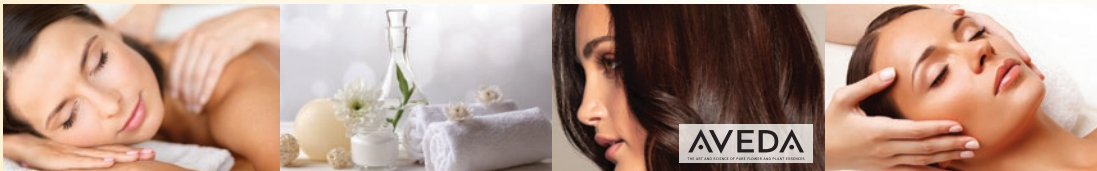


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The Shoals
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distinguishing the four cities

Our name comes from the rocky shoal of the Tennessee River that flows east to west, making a northward turn to join the Ohio River at Paducah, Kentucky. The treacherous shoals are now under water, tamed finally by the Tennessee Valley Authority dams. Meanwhile, our distinct four cities were born.

Florence

Population: 42,437

Founded: 1818; incorporated, 1826

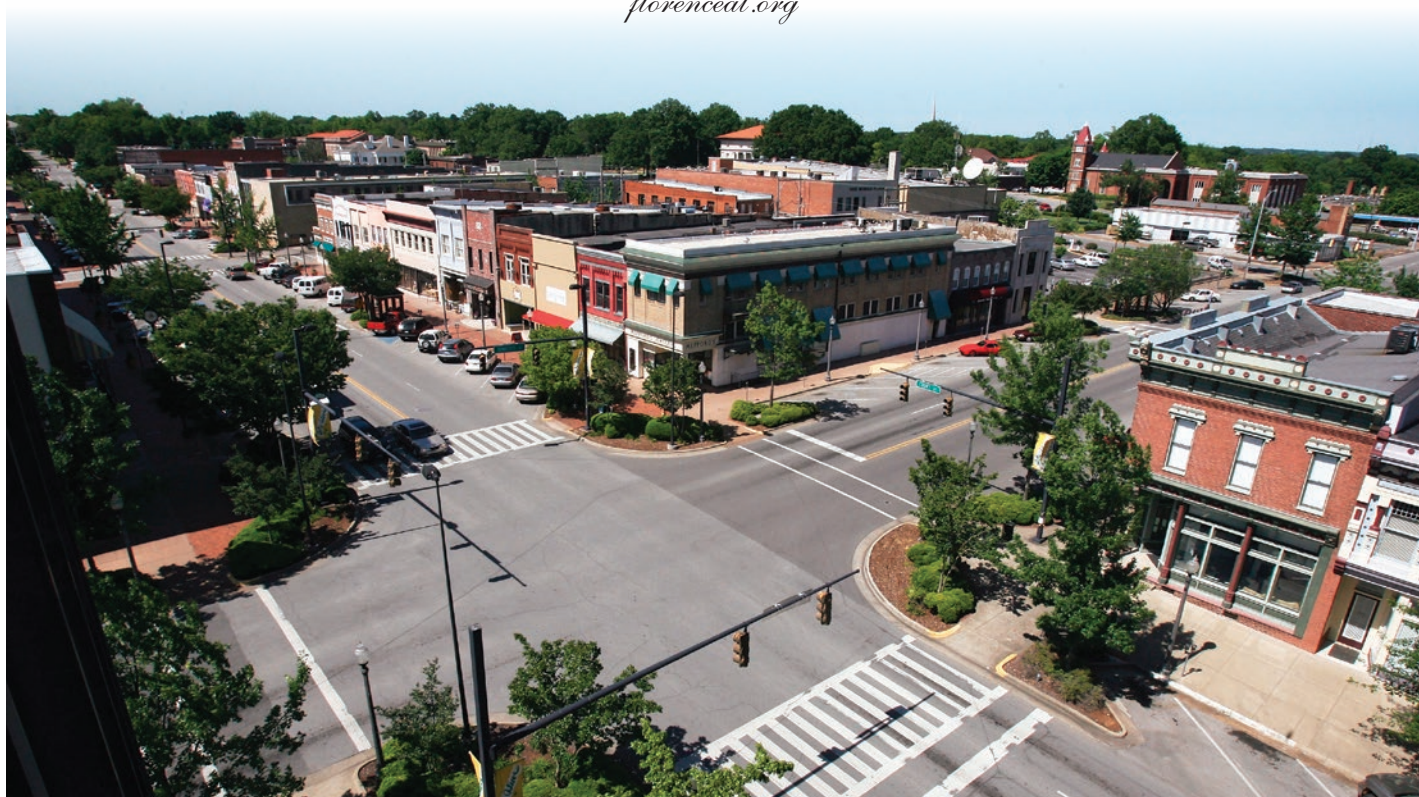
Florence, the county seat of Lauderdale County, was established on the northern banks of the Tennessee River in the years immediately after the Louisiana Purchase and the War of 1812.

The town's site was surveyed in 1818 by Ferdinand Sannoner for Cypress Land Company. Sannoner, who was a native of Italy, named the new town after his favorite city in his homeland.

Florence became a textiles town and was home to some of the earliest mills in the region.

Music is a key element of the city's heritage. W.C. Handy, the "Father of the Blues," and Sam Phillips, the "Father of Rock 'n' Roll," were born in Florence. The Muscle Shoals music industry got its start in Florence, as well. The University of North Alabama has its roots as the first state-chartered university in Alabama.

florenceal.org





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Muscle Shoals

Population: 17,210

Founded: 1923

Muscle Shoals was unincorporated farm land until the early 1920s when automotive tycoon Henry Ford visited the area and proclaimed his vision of turning the flat land into a metropolis. Ford offered to purchase Wilson Dam, but was turned down by the U.S. government. Instead, the government established the Tennessee Valley Authority. In 1923, the people living in unincorporated Muscle Shoals voted 361-6 for incorporation.

Disagreement continues about the origin of the name Muscle Shoals. Some claim the muscle portion of the name is a misspelled reference to mussels found in the Tennessee River, while others say it refers to the hard work and strength used to establish the area.

In the 1960s and 1970s Muscle Shoals became known as a hit maker in the music industry. Rick Hall and his FAME Recording Studios, and talented back-up musicians, The Swampers, put Muscle Shoals on the music map.

cityofmuscleshoals.com

Florence



Muscle Shoals



Sheffield



Tuscumbia





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Tuscumbia

Population: 9,169
Incorporated: 1820

The French settled the land in the 1700s, but the town was destroyed. The Chickasaw Nation moved in next, establishing a town near the spring. The first white family arrived about 1815.

The town, which is the county seat of Colbert County, was renamed in 1822 in honor of the Chickasaw chief who lived there.

Tuscumbia is best known as for Ivy Green, the birthplace of Helen Keller. It had the first railway west of the Alleghenies.

cityoftuscumbia.org

Sheffield

Population: 9,307
Founded: 1884

Gen. Andrew Jackson recommended that a town be established on the bluffs overlooking the Tennessee River after he and his troops camped in the area in 1817. The town was later laid out on that site and called York Bluff. The name was changed to Sheffield, after the city in England, which is on the River Sheaf.

Sheffield is the home of both locations of Muscle Shoals Sound Studios, where artists such as The Rolling Stones, Paul Simon, Boz Scaggs, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Willie Nelson, Rod Stewart and Bob Seger recorded albums in the 1960s and 1970s.

Sheffield is the home to Tuscumbia Landing, which was a debarkation point for Native Americans who were uprooted from their homes and forced to migrate west to reservations in Oklahoma under the Indian Removal Act of 1830 by President Andrew Jackson. In 2013, the city formed the Sheffield Port Authority at Tuscumbia Landing to work with groups that want to develop the site into an interpretive center.

sheffielddalabama.org



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Family-Friendly Municipal Parks



The Shoals has numerous parks, three of them on the Tennessee River, with a variety of amenities.

Residents and visitors to the Shoals can find plenty of outdoor activities.



Deibert Park in Florence.

FLORENCE

Park information:
256-760-6416
www.fpard.com/Park

COX CREEK PARK

Where: corner of Alabama 17 (Chisholm Road) and Alabama 133 (Cox Creek Parkway); hours 8 a.m. to dark; free

Got your skateboard with you? This is the park for you. Florence Skate Park is located here featuring equipment manufactured by Spohn Ranch and made out of SkateLite Pro, a surface used by professionals and amateurs. The surface stays consistent in hot, cold, wet or dry weather, with frames of galvanized steel welded rather than bolted to prevent movement, and two banked wedges.

Don't forget wear your protective and safety gear.

Other park amenities include 12 lighted tennis courts, a billiard building, a playground, and horseshoe pits.

DEIBERT PARK

Where: Cox Creek Parkway and Darby Drive; hours: daylight; cost: free

This park offers tranquil nature walks along a 2.85 mile trail that winds through open areas, woods and around three ponds. A playground, picnic shelter and restrooms also are on site.

MCFARLAND PARK

Where: Alabama 20, west of O'Neal Bridge; hours: daylight; most services are free

This park gives you the best view and access to the Tennessee River and is a favorite among boaters, anglers, campers, joggers, bicyclists, disc golfers, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts. There is a playground with picnic tables, and picnic tables dot the park with unobstructed views of the majestic river. A lighted walking trail and floating restaurant are irresistible draws, as are the swings and benches that overlook the river. Other amenities include boat ramps and slips, a baseball field, and camping area. The Florence-Lauderdale Visitors Center is located here.

Step into History. Step into Historic *Tuscumbia*



Events you don't want to miss:

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Held in April

Color Run
May 3rd

**Belle Mont
Celtic Festival**
May 10th

**Annual Shoals
Cottagecore
Festival**
May 10th

**Downtown Tuscumbia
Second Saturdays**
June, July and August

**Annual African
Heritage Festival**
June 21st

Helen Keller Festival
June 26th - 29th
Miracle Worker Play
June 6th - July 19th
Fri. & Sat. Evening

Saddle Up for St. Jude
July 17th - 19th

Oka Kapassa
September 12th & 13th

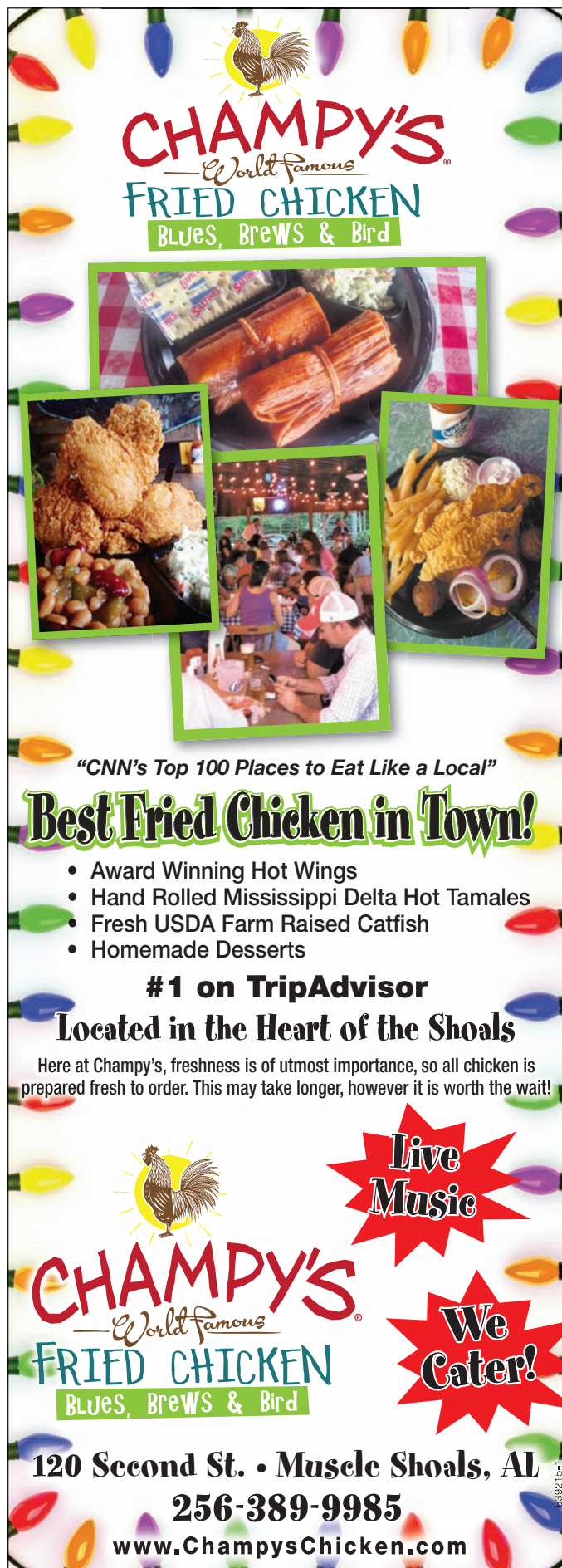
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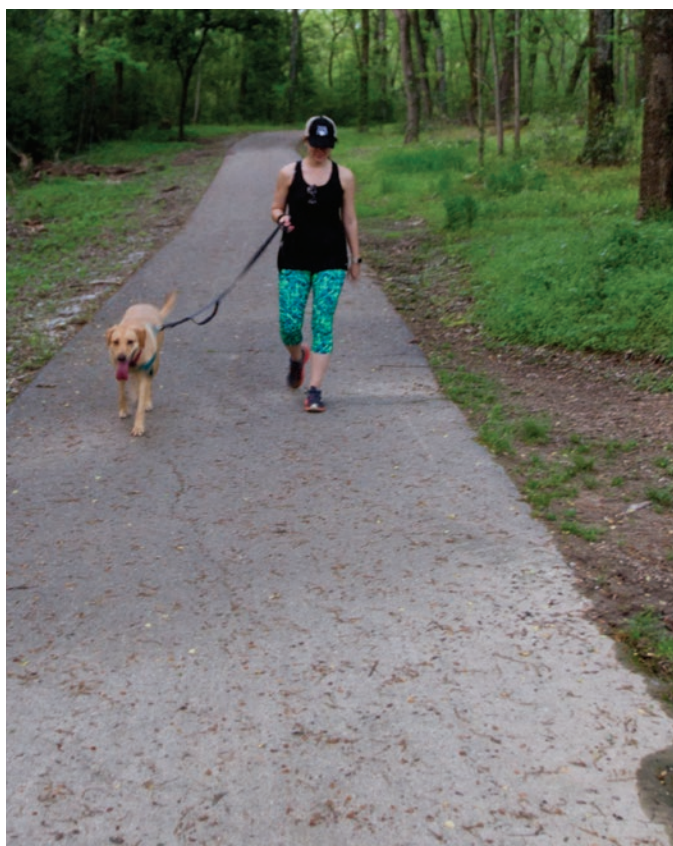
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Gattman Park in Muscle Shoals.



Walking Trail at TVA in Muscle Shoals.

RIVER HERITAGE PARK

Where: 800 Cox Creek Parkway; 256-760-6416

This park, located near the Renaissance Shoals Resort & Spa, features a playground and large splash pad that's open May to September from 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. A large pavilion offers a cool place to sit when it's not rented for special events. The park now includes a 1.2-mile path that winds its way from Riverfront Park to the Singing River Bridge. There are benches and overlooks to enjoy the views and a grass amphitheater which is capable of holding between 750 to 1,000 people for a concert.

WILDWOOD PARK

Where: Waterloo Road, west of Florence; hours: daylight; free

It's all nature here, with picnic tables, a nature trail, a pavilion, and beginner and advanced mountain bike trails.



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MUSCLE SHOALS

Park information:

256-386-9270

[www.cityofmuscleshoals.com/](http://www.cityofmuscleshoals.com/Default.asp?ID=26&pg=Facilities)

Default.asp?ID=26&pg=Facilities

GATTMAN PARK

Where: 901 Gattman Park Drive;
see website for hours

The park has two gymnasiums, one with an indoor walking track; pavilions (two large, one small), and numerous picnic tables. Also featured is a playground, outdoor walking track, and a splash pad that opens Memorial Day weekend.

SHEFFIELD

Park information:

256-386-5616

www.sheffieldalabama.org/attractions

RIVERFRONT PARK

Where: 1416 Alabama Ave.,
Sheffield; Open daily 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Riverfront Park overlooks beautiful Pickwick Lake and features a boundless playground and splash pad for children. It is a lovely spot for fishing, picnics and has a walking trail with a stunning view of the water.

TUSCUMBIA

Park information:

256-386-5655

[www.facebook.com/Tuscumbia-Parks-](https://www.facebook.com/Tuscumbia-Parks-Recreation-491863214257810/)

Recreation-491863214257810/

SPRING PARK

Where: South of downtown;
hours: varies; some costs for park attractions

Spring Park serves as a centerpiece for the town of Tuscumbia and dates back to the 1800s. It features a man-made stone waterfall, called Coldwater Falls. The park also features a mini-amusement park for children and a splash pad. The rides, including a

kid-sized roller coaster, a carousel and a train that takes passengers throughout the park, operate daily. More information, including operational dates, is available online at Tuscumbiarailway.com.

TVA

TVA ROCKPILE RECREATIONAL AREA

The TVA Rockpile Recreational Area is home to the “coolest” playground in America, according to Play Across America. The website and iPhone app named the TVA playground the coolest in America for the month of April in 2016. Play Across America is a crowd-sourced directory of playgrounds in the country. The Rockpile Playground was applauded for its river theme, taking its inspiration from the Tennessee River it is situated next to and Wilson Dam just a short walk away. Children can slide down blue slides that mimic water flowing



Star Park at McFarland Park in Florence.



Spring Park in Tusculumbia.



River Heritage Park in Florence.



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Wildwood in Florence.

out of the Wilson Dam spillways; climb on a turtle and fish that pop out of the ground; climb and slide through a tree house; or swing on swings attached to poles fashioned to look like tree trunks. An interactive soundboard that plays animal sounds is popular with children. The board is decorated with animal tracks and pictures. The playground is just one attraction in the recreation area. There is a paved pedestrian path that follows the river to the rockpile waterfall for a closer view of Wilson Dam. The recreation area also has campsites, hiking trails and a boat launch. The 17 miles of paved and primitive hiking trails are Americans with Disabilities Act compliant.



Riverfront Park in Sheffield.



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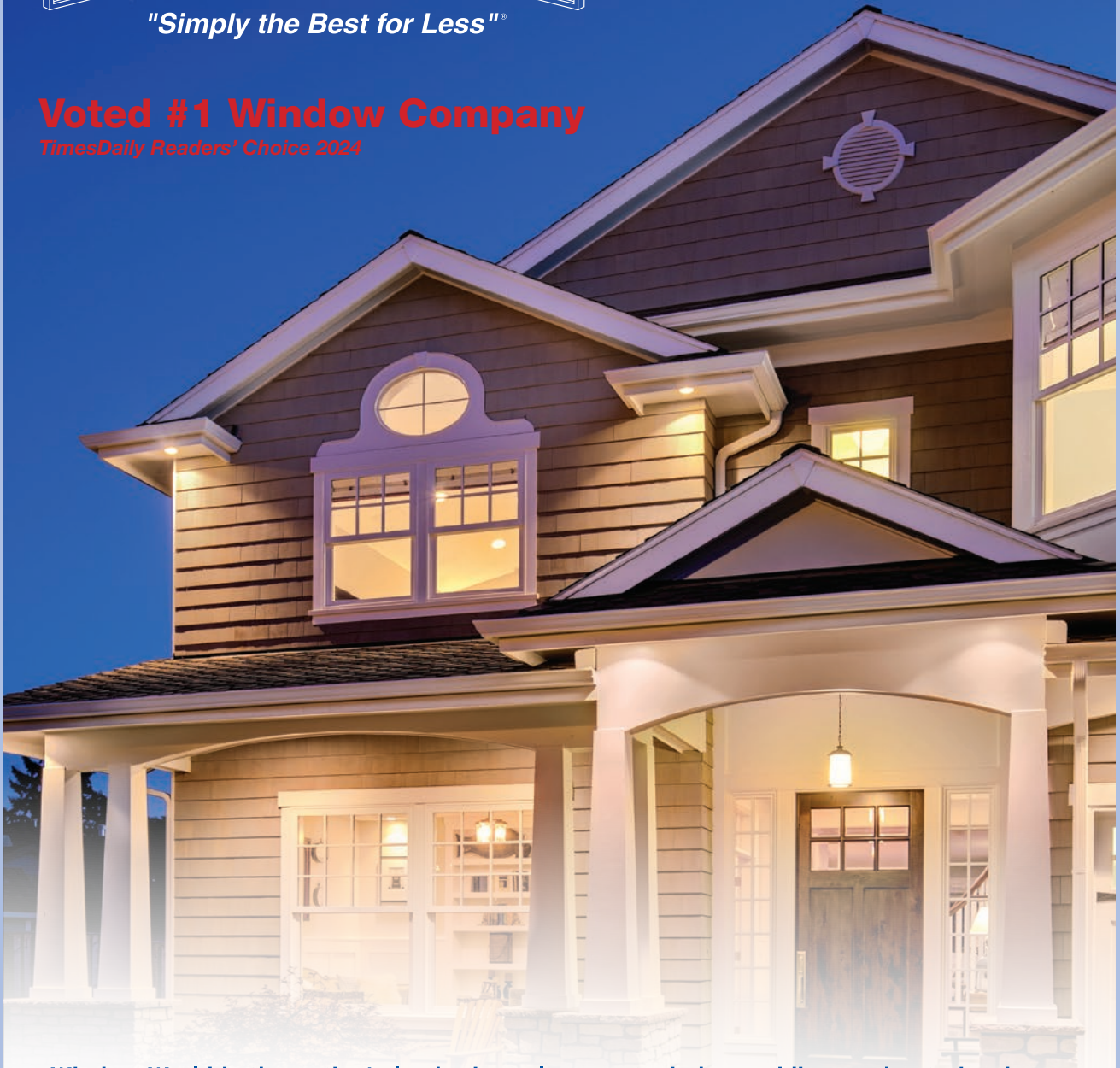
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Shoals area Museums



Tennessee Valley Museum of Art, Tuscumbia.

TENNESSEE VALLEY MUSEUM OF ART

This regional art center has a permanent exhibit of the Martin Petroglyph, a 3,000 pound boulder depicting human footprints and snakes, carved by the prehistoric people of northwest Alabama. Also among the museum's displays is the rare and historic Chickasaw beaded and embroidered bandolier strap that belonged to Chief George Colbert, for whom the county is named.

511 N. Water St., Tuscumbia • 256-383-0533 • www.tennesseevalleyarts.org
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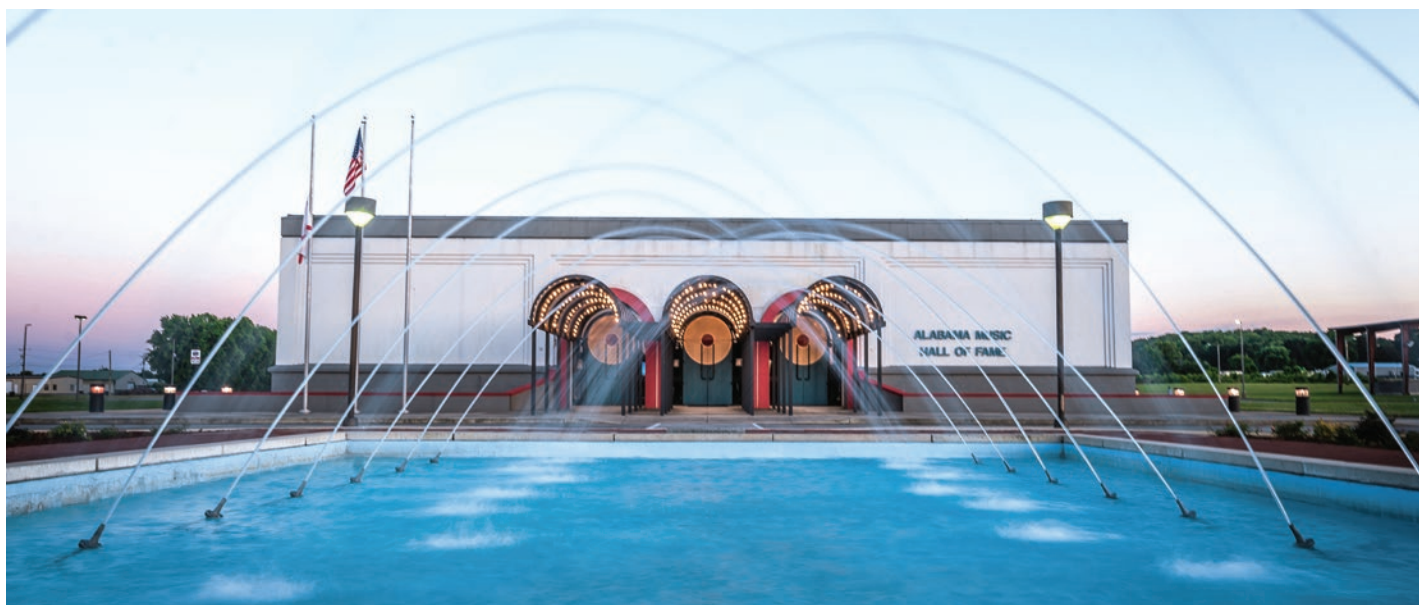


Belle Mont Mansion in Tuscumbia.

BELLE MONT MANSION

Belle Mont Mansion is one of Alabama's best examples of the styles of the Jeffersonian-Palladian style architecture. The two-story structure was built in the early 1800s by Dr. Alexander Williams Mitchell, a native of Virginia, and one of the area's largest slaveholders. The house was sold in 1833 to Isaac Winston, who was the uncle of Alabama first's native born governor, John Anthony Winston. Winston was also the cousin of Patrick Henry and Dolly Madison. The structure was sold again in 1941 and donated to the Alabama Historical Commission.

1569 Cook Lane, Tuscumbia • 256-381-5052 • Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wed.-Sat.
Admission charged • bellemontmansion.com



Alabama Music Hall of Fame, Tuscumbia.

ALABAMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME

This is the place to learn the rich history, ever-changing present, and bright future of the Shoals music scene. The renowned achievements of music artists who live, have passed through and continue to record in the Shoals are found here. Exhibits include a 12-foot jukebox, a wax figure of Nat King Cole, recording equipment used in Sam Phillips' Memphis Music Service, apparel and instruments from many artists.

617 U.S. 72 W., Tuscumbia • 256-381-4417 • Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday
Admission charged • alamhof.org



Edith Newman Culver Museum, Waterloo.

EDITH NEWMAN CULVER MUSEUM

The museum is nestled on a hillside overlooking downtown Waterloo and the path that thousands of Indians took during the 1800s removal as a part of the Trail of Tears. The two-story structure is the town's museum and features many military memorabilia, as well as Civil War relics and Native American artifacts. On the grounds is a barn housing a collection of horse-drawn carriages. The museum was the home of Joseph Marion Newman and his wife, Sarah. Newman, a Union soldier from Ohio, purchased the house in 1918 after opening a sawmill north of Waterloo.

501 Main St., Waterloo • 256-764-3237
Hours: call

TUSCUMBIA DEPOT AND ROUNDHOUSE

It's only fitting that since Tuscumbia was the site of the first railroad west of the Allegheny Mountains – built in the 1830s – it would have the area's premiere railway museum. The museum is in the former Tuscumbia Depot, which was built in 1888 and served as division headquarters for the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. The fully restored depot features rail and train memorabilia including a photo gallery. There is an interactive train simulator and telegraph demonstrations. Keeping with the historic architecture of the depot, a roundhouse was built in 2013.

204 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia • 256-389-1357
Tuscumbia Depot on Facebook • Hours: call



Tuscumbia Depot and Roundhouse, Tuscumbia.

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W.C. HANDY Museum and Library

W.C. Handy became famous in the music world for his compositions such as “Memphis Blues” and “St. Louis Blues” and as a band conductor and author. He is heralded as the “Father of the Blues.” But before his famous life, he was born in a small log cabin in Florence on Nov. 16, 1873. The museum in his honor houses a collection of memorabilia, including his famous trumpet and his personal piano, as well as personal papers and original sheet music.

620 W. College St., Florence • 256-275-3128
Admission charged • wchandymuseum.org



W.C. Handy Birthplace, Museum and Library, Florence.



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KENNEDY-DOUGLASS CENTER for the Arts

Florence's Center for the Arts includes the Kennedy-Douglass Center, Kennedy-Douglass Annex and Southall-Moore House. There is an arts gallery and museum that serves as an educational center and cultural hub for the area. The center has numerous exhibits throughout the year and rotating exhibits from artists of the Southeast. The three buildings are former homes, with the main center built in 1918 and named for the Rev. Hiram Kennedy Douglass who willed the house to the city in 1975 to be used for the arts. Charles Moore donated the historic Southall-Moore home to the city in 2006. It was built in 1894.

217 E. Tuscaloosa St., Florence • Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday & 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
256-760-6379 • Admission: Free • florencealmuseums.com



Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts, Florence.



Southall-Moore House, Florence



Kennedy-Douglass Annex, Florence



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IVY GREEN the birthplace of Helen Keller

The site of the birthplace of Helen Keller features the home and grounds, including the famous pump where teacher Annie Sullivan showed a young Keller how to spell w-a-t-e-r in sign language. That single lesson opened the outside world to the child.

300 N. Commons St. W, Tuscumbia • 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday
256-383-4066 • Admission charged • helenkellerbirthplace.org



Ivy Green, Tuscumbia

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POPE'S TAVERN

Pope's Tavern Museum's façade harkens to the time in the 1800s when it was a stagecoach stop, tavern and inn. It is one of the oldest buildings in Florence and its location pinpoints the military road that once ran through the area, connecting Nashville to the Natchez Trace, and on to New Orleans. Andrew Jackson is said to have stayed at the tavern during his march to the Battle of New Orleans. The inn was a hospital for both the Confederate and Union during the Civil War before later becoming a private family home until the city bought it in 1965. It is housed with antiques and artifacts from the 18th and 19th centuries, as well as artifacts from the Civil War and local history.

203 Hermitage Drive, Florence • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday
256-760-6439 • Admission charged



Pope's Tavern, Florence.



Children's Museum of the Shoals, Florence.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM of the Shoals

The Children's Museum of the Shoals is the area's go-to place for child development and fun through educational games and activities. It features hands-on exhibits that encourage children to play while learning about the area's culture, history, and about the Tennessee River. Deibert Park, which is adjacent to the museum, hosts a nature walking trail and a playground.

2810 Darby Drive, Florence (Near the entrance to Deibert Park) • 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday
256-284-7107 • Admission charged • cms Shoals.org

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Rosenbaum House and Museum

Frank Lloyd Wright is among the most prominent and revered American architects of the 20th century. He designed approximately 1,000 structures spanning a 70-year career. He preferred construction where buildings blended into the landscape rather than being obviously perched to rise independently off the ground on which it was constructed. His famous architectural designs include the Prairie, Concrete Block and Usonian, of which the Rosenbaum House in Florence is included. Horizontal lines connect the home with the land, as do its flat roofs with overhangs, natural materials like cypress, glass and brick, access to the outside from every room, and board and batten walls. The house has its original Wright-designed furniture.

601 Riverview Drive, Florence • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 1-4 p.m. Sunday.
For large group tours, call 256-718-5050 • Admission charged • wrightinalabama.com



The Rosenbaum House, Florence.



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INDIAN MOUND AND MUSEUM

The museum's mission is to interpret the prehistoric culture of the Shoals area for education while preserving the Woodland period landscape of the site and fostering a community dialogue about environmental stewardship and Native American history, according to its mission statement. The 43-foot-high mound near the museum is one example of the work of early Native Americans who lived in Alabama before the Cherokee, Chickasaw and Creek nations inhabited the region. The mound is quadrilateral, with a summit that's 145-by-94 feet. Early settlers found steps on the east side and there was evidence the mound was enclosed by a semi-circular earthen wall. Inside the museum are artifacts dating back to more than 10,000 years. Displays are arranged in chronological order from Paleo to Historic periods.

1028 S. Court St. • 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday & 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday
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Celebrate

with us

The Shoals is popular for its celebrations and festivals that are a continuous flow of entertainment from spring until winter. While some festivals have announced dates for this year's events, it's best to go to the website or Facebook page listed, or call the phone number provided with the information to double check that the event will still take place.

Arts Alive

Florence's Wilson Park plays hosts to a myriad of artists and craftsmen who flock to the downtown park to sell their arts and crafts and compete in the juried Arts Alive exhibit at the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts.

Anything from paintings to sculptures to clothing and woodwork can be found at Arts Alive.

The 2025 festival was May 17-18. For details about the festival or exhibits, visit alabamaartsalive.com or call 256-760-6379.



W.C. Handy Music Festival

Every year, the Shoals honors W.C. Handy, who was born in Florence and built his legacy as “Father of the Blues.” There will be some abbreviations to this year’s 10-day event, scheduled for July 19-28. Visit wchandymusicfestival.com or call The Music Preservation Society Inc. at 256-766-7642.



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Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride

Motorcyclists honor the Trail of Tears by riding from Chattanooga to Waterloo. The riders always ride on the third Saturday in September.



Coon Dog Cemetery Labor Day Celebration

Not many places have a cemetery for coon dogs. Even fewer have a Labor Day celebration at a coon dog cemetery. But the annual Coondog Cemetery Labor Day Celebration has become one of the most popular, if quirky, events in the Shoals. Graves will be decorated and live music and barbecue will be available. The Coondog Cemetery is at 4945 Coondog Cemetery Road, off U.S. 72 and Alabama 247. For more details, visit coondogcemetery.com or call 256-383-0783.



Alabama Renaissance Faire

The Fountain on the Green, better known the rest of the year as Wilson Park in Florence, hosts nobility, knights and kings as the city of Florence celebrates the annual Renaissance Faire.

The 2025 faire is Oct. 25-26. For details about the fun and educational event, visit alrenfaire.org. The feast is usually set for the third Saturday in October. This year's Feast date is Oct 18.



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Shoals Spirit of Freedom Celebration

The popular Spirit of Freedom Celebration is July 4 this year at McFarland Park in Florence. The celebration will feature live music at the park along with plenty of family-friendly activities leading up to the fireworks show around 9 p.m. as long as the weather permits.



Helen Keller Festival

The life and accomplishments of one of the Shoals' most famous natives, Helen Keller, is celebrated each year with a summer festival. The weeklong festival takes place in Spring Park in Tuscumbia, not far from Keller's birthplace, Ivy Green. The festival includes live bands and music, a 5-mile and 23-mile family bike ride, a 5-mile and 1-mile fun run, a car and truck show, a golf tournament, arts and crafts, educational displays, and a parade and street party. Of course, no Keller festival is complete without a rendition of "The Miracle Worker," and the Helen Keller Art Show of Alabama. The 2025 festival is June 26-29. For details, visit helenkellerfestival.com.





Dickens Christmas Y'all in Tuscumbia.



First Fridays in Florence.



Franklin County Watermelon Festival in Russellville.

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Other Celebrations & Festivals



North Alabama State Fair in Muscle Shoals.

MONTHLY CELEBRATION

FIRST FRIDAYS

The First Fridays are held every month this year from May through December in downtown Florence. May, September-December hours are 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. June-August hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sidewalks are lined with vendors, artists and musicians. Court Street is closed off and the area becomes filled with people who love strolling and shopping among the vendors and the downtown shops before or after having dinner in some of Florence's favorite restaurants.

YEARLY FESTIVALS

RECALL LAGRANGE

Civil War reenactments, exhibits and entertainment. May 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. LaGrange College Site, 1491 LaGrange College Road, Leighton. Call 256-702-6953

BELLE MONT CELTIC FESTIVAL

The annual Belle Mont Celtic Festival will be held May 10 at Belle Mont Mansion in Tuscumbia. The outdoor festival will feature world-class Celtic musicians staged on the sweeping lawn of the historic home. Stirring tunes featuring bagpipe, flute, and fiddle music will be showcased by some of the most popular Celtic bands in the U.S. Call 256-810-1683

NORTH ALABAMA AFRICAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Explores African art, fashions, culture, crafts, music and food; 2025 festival is May 31-June 1 at the Willie Green Recreation Park, 609 S. East St., Tuscumbia. 256-383-0783

JUNIOR ARCHAEOLOGY DAY

Pope's Tavern Museum will host a free camp for students ages 9-18 from June 2-6. The camp will be divided into two age groups. The groups and times of the camps are: Ages 10-12 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; ages 13-18 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. The camp will introduce students to the concepts of archaeology through hands-on investigation and research. Students will learn how to research, plan, excavate, and process artifacts at Pope's Tavern Museum. Applications for the camps are available at Pope's Tavern Museum, the Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts and online at www.florencealmuseums.com and then click on Pope's Tavern Museum.

MUSCLE SHOALS STREET RODS SHOW

June 7, Spring Park, Tuscumbia.
7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SLEDGEFEST

The three-day festival celebrates Leighton's own Percy Sledge, who is best known for his heart-felt soul music that was heard across the globe. His well-known hit is "When a Man Loves a Woman" is still heard today at venues that share Sledge's unique sound. The fourth edition of Sledgefest will be June 13-15 along Main Street in Leighton.

SADDLE UP FOR ST. JUDE TRAIL RIDE

July 17-19, Gardiner Farm in Tuscumbia. Horseback trail riding, auctions, wagon rides, roping demonstrations, headliner concerts, and much more mark this two-day charitable event. This horse-related event benefits St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital and is the largest in the Southeast. Log onto www.saddleup4kids.org for more information.

FRANKLIN COUNTY WATERMELON FESTIVAL

It's not summer in the South without watermelon. The people of Russellville celebrate this Southern, summer fruit with music and more Aug. 15-16. Call 256-332-1760 for more details.

NORTH ALABAMA STATE FAIR

The state fair is an American tradition, and that's no different in the Shoals. Rides, booths, exhibits and entertainment about in the fairgrounds in Muscle Shoals Sept. 8-14. Visit northalabamastatefair.org for more information.

OKTOBERFEST

St. Florian's German heritage is celebrated in the fall as the downtown area is host to live music, arts and crafts, antique tractor shows and German food. Oktoberfest will be held Oct. 3-4. Visit townofstflorianal.com for more information.

SHOALS FEST

ShoalsFest returns to McFarland Park in Florence on Oct. 11-12. Some of the performers expected to play include Jackson Browne, Jason Isbell, Patterson Hood and Chris Tompkins. In the round, Dan Penn and Spooner Oldam, Garrison Starr and Steve Trash, Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Waxahatchee and MJ Lenderman

IT'S A DICKENS CHRISTMAS Y'ALL

It is a holiday festival reminiscent of the classic "A Christmas Carol" complete with carriage rides, snow falling, music, arts and crafts and food vendors. This year's festival will be Dec. 13. Call Fiddledee D at 256-383-9797 for more information.

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Photographs courtesy of Mary Carton.

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FAIRE FELLOWSHIP

Martin *and* Ugrovics find kinship *with* ‘Volunteers of the Roundtable’

Story by Chelsea Retherford

Debbie Martin said she and a fellow friend, Mathew, stumbled on the Alabama Renaissance Faire festivities by chance while visiting Florence in October 1998.

“I’d never seen anything like it, and I fell in love,” Martin said. “I bought my first outfit, and the next year, I told my close friend, Karen (Ugrovics), about it. I knew we had to go back.”

Martin and Ugrovics did attend the Faire the following year, but not before accidentally stumbling on the annual Alabama Renaissance Feast.

The rest, Martin said, was history

“I wish I could say I was a history buff,” Martin said with a laugh. “I am a closet science fiction writer. I don’t mind anyone saying that’s nerdy. I know what fun is.”

Her idea of fun and nerdy seems to mix in well with other Faire goers.

While the Alabama Renaissance Faire was organized with a mission of education about the Medieval and Renaissance eras in mind, the festival also welcomes Vikings, pirates, fairies, trolls, dragons and all manner of other fantastic creatures and characters.

When Martin and Ugrovics met Renaissance Faire Director Billy Warren and several other “Volunteers of the Roundtable,” they also found they meshed well with the people behind the organization of the Faire.

“We found out that they met every third Thursday of every month at lunch. They’d get together and plan everything, and I was just fascinated,” Martin said.

“I mean, this is a group who voluntarily give up time to do this, and it turns out wonderfully.”

After the 1999 Faire ended, and Martin and Ugrovics made the drive back to their homes in Leoma, Tennessee — and back to reality — they talked it over and decided they both wanted to be a part of the planning and preparation as well.

So, nearly every third Thursday for the past 25 years, Ugrovics and Martin are in Florence, volunteering for the Faire.

Neither know exactly how many hours they’ve put in volunteering over that span of time, but for the past several years, they’ve at least clocked enough hours to secure a \$2,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation.

Ugrovics and Martin,

who are employees of the Walmart in Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, discovered the grant through their workplace about five years after they joined the Roundtable.

“It’s evolved over the years, but now, for every 25 hours that you volunteer, the foundation will give \$250,” Ugrovics explained. “If you put in 100 hours, you can get \$1,000 for your non-profit organization.”

Ugrovics said the Walmart Foundation caps the amount of money donated per volunteer at \$1,000 per year, but together, she and Martin have raised \$2,000 for the Faire several times.

That amount grew by another \$1,000 last year when Ugrovics’ son, Gage, decided to join the effort.

Ugrovics said her son had attended the Faire year

Karen Ugrovics, Gage Ugrovics and Debbie Martin gather for a portrait at Wilson Park. [DAN BUSEY/TIMESDAILY]



after year from the time he was old enough to walk on his own.

"He has grown up with the Faire," Ugrovics said. "He's helped here and there before, but recently he decided he wanted to put in 100 hours. We wore that child out last year. He seemed to have fun though. We're kind of training him because we're all getting on up there. We need the young ones to take over."

Though they are getting older, and the work for the Faire continues to grow as

the event itself grows each year, Ugrovics and Martin agreed, as long as there is a Faire in Florence, and as long as they are able to help, they plan to keep coming again and again.

"Oddly enough, I like what I do," Martin said. "I call it my working vacation. Some years are better than others, because, you know, ever so often you get a little tired. I've never not enjoyed it, though. I enjoy the people that we work with who make it feel less like hard work."



Randall Ugrovics, center, pictured with others during the Alabama Renaissance Faire in 2000. [COURTESY]



Queen Dorlea, center, and Glenn Rickard, right, during the Alabama Renaissance Faire in 1999. Pictured to the left is Billy Ray Warren. [COURTESY]



Keith Hawthorne raises his sword for a duel during the Alabama Renaissance Faire in 2000. [COURTESY]

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1 Table encourages unity *among neighbors*

Story by Alyssa Sutherland • Photography by Dan Busey



Neighbors and residents mix to converse and eat at one table along Mobile Street Plaza in downtown Florence

The community on Nov. 7, 2024, descended on Mobile Plaza in historic numbers for the 1 Table community meal.

Event organizers were shocked by the turnout, noting that they had never seen the line for the event wrap so far down Seminary Street.

Brittany Ashley, one of the creators of 1 Table, said the concept of sharing a meal with the community seemed especially important this year, and she was overjoyed to see such a great turnout.

"It's sweet and simple and shows people at their finest," she said. "Especially in this election year, I think we need it."

By noon, caterer Jill Larkin of Jill's Sweet

Memories was wondering if she'd have to make a run for additional plates — she only had 1,200, and more than 600 people had been through the line so far.

She noted that no matter the cost, she loves being part of 1 Table each year.

"It's my community — I've lived here my whole life," Larkin said. "These are the people who pay me to marry their daughter or bury their mama or daddy — the least I can do is feed them a meal once a year."

As folks circulated through the line and table, sharing food and conversation with old friends and new acquaintances, they also took a moment to sign their names or jot down notes on the paper clothes

lining the long table.

One attendee, Kristen Shores, wrote a message encouraging community members to stay united in the face of political division and unrest.

"There's a lot of division right now across everything ... it's already impacting our community, and I love this town so much," she said. "This is bringing everybody together, no matter who they voted for on Tuesday."

"We're coming together in each of our human experiences as a community, and I'm so glad the turnout is what it is."

Many who showed up, like Daisy Griffin and her friends, stumbled upon the event last year and decided to attend together for the first time this year.

However, others, like Sonya Davenport and John Gross make an effort to attend annually.

Gross said that he comes from Littleville every year because he enjoys meeting people. Meanwhile, Davenport and her daughter have made it a family tradition.

This time, Davenport's eight-month-old granddaughter, Liliana, was in tow — and enjoying her first taste of mashed potatoes.

"We will keep bringing her," Davenport said. "I hope she learns how to fellowship and be friendly and kind to others."

Showing off a Farm Country toy barn set from 1991, Matthew Aycock laughed a little sheepishly when he explained he had bought a replacement box for the set his parents had gotten him as a child.

"I think I found this for a good deal and bought it to have just in case my set got damaged or went missing," he said. "I guess it's just the family sickness."

Matthew and his brother, Josh, are second generation farm toy collectors. The "sickness" the brothers joke about started with their father, Byron Aycock.

"Growing up, we had sandbox toys, which were ones that were in really bad shape, and then we had some that were collectors' items," Josh said. "You know, there were some that if they broke, no big deal. They were cool to play with. Then there were some that stayed in the box. They were not to be touched."

One such "off-limits" toy is a model replica of an 1155 Massey Ferguson tractor, the first item in Josh's personal collection.

He'd gotten the 1980s model tractor toy with his dad on a father-son trip to North Dakota, a trip planned specifically to attend a farm toy show.

"Our dad has been collecting since the early '80s, and he's been going to shows all over," Josh said, adding that he and Matthew got to tag along often as kids.

Growing up in the 1990s, Josh and Matthew said they'd been to several annual toy shows around north Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. These days, however, those shows are found less frequently in the region.

"There is another show in Jonesboro, Arkansas, and one in Cleveland, Mississippi," Josh said. "There's one in Jackson, Tennessee, and those are the closest three to us. Now, up in the

Annual Farm Toy show is an Aycock family tradition

Story by Chelsea Retherford

Photography by Dan Busey

Midwest, there are shows happening all the time."

When Josh and his father returned home from the show in North Dakota, the two began talking about starting their own show back home in the Shoals. They got Matthew involved, and the three hit the ground running.

That first show was held in 2018 in a single ballroom of the Clarion Inn in Sheffield.

"When we were looking at space, and Josh said he thought the one room would be enough, I kind of thought, 'Yeah, OK, you're crazy if you think we can fit this event in this one little room,'" Matthew said prophetically.

The space accommodated most of the vendors for that first show, but a few local vendors and collectors — including their dad — had tables set outside in the hallway.

By year three, Mathew and Josh said the event had grown to encompass all the public space the hotel could spare in its event center and lobby. Josh said the hotel would likely allow them to use space in its gym if they weren't already using the space for temporary storage during the toy show.

"We're maxed out on vendors, which is a good problem to have," Josh added. "We've got a waiting list for that, but yeah, we've grown. Now we've got vendors coming from 10 different states. I think every vendor that was here for year one is back for year seven."

Josh said the friendships he's made with other vendors since beginning his own collection is another reason he's drawn to the hobby he shares with his father and brother. He said he's also proud of the opportunity he's had to give back to his community through the farm toy show.

Since its inception seven years ago, the farm toy show donates the proceeds from the price of admission to the Deshler High School FFA.

Aside from the \$3 admission fee, Josh and Mathew said guests to the show spend as much or as little as they want once they're inside the doors. With toys ranging in price from \$10 to about \$600, and in size from 1:64 (a scale size the Aycock brothers compared to the size of a Hot Wheel) to 40-inch pedal tractors, the brothers said the show offers something for everyone.

"If you're a collector, this show is for you, of course," Josh said. "We also have some people who want to just come and see what the fuss is about. Then, of course, we tell people to bring your kids and grandkids. It's fun for them, and it's fun for us."



Brothers Josh and Mike Aycock stand for a portrait with some of their collectables inside the Clarion Inn in Sheffield.





Phyllis Christopher,
Marie Sassin,
Amanda Chapman,
Trey Edwards,
Pam Gauvin and
Chad Christopher.

AMANDA CHAPMAN

finds second passion in makeup, costuming

Story by Chelsea Retherford • Photography by Dan Busey

Shoals residents who frequent the Dickens Christmas Festival, held in downtown Tuscombua every December, have likely enjoyed meeting characters from the “A Christmas Carol” story. The characters turn up at the festival’s Scones and Moans event before meandering out into the streets for the rest of the day’s festivities.

Some may even be familiar with the people behind the characters, like Chad and Phyllis Christopher, who have become known for their annual roles as Marley and the Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come.

One person perhaps less

familiar to festival attendees is the individual behind these characterizations, though she rarely shows up in costume herself.

Amanda Chapman discovered makeup artistry through her passion for photography and her love for Halloween. She said she started her own photography business in 2007, and special effects soon followed.

“I’ve always like to dress up, and in 2011, I did Edward Scissorhands makeup on myself for the first time,” Chapman said. “I just did it for Halloween. I took a few pictures of myself, and then I shared the photos online.”

After posting her spooky portraits to Facebook, Chapman said she was overwhelmed by the response and positive feedback in the comments.

“I think that just gave me the encouragement and inspiration to continue,” she said.

Chapman’s interest in makeup and visual effects came at an opportune moment, she added, looking back on her ventures into the craft. As she was learning the techniques behind makeup application, especially for costuming and cosplay, makeup tutorials were sprouting on YouTube and across other social media platforms.

“That was all happening kind of in the beginning, when people were posting that kind of content online,” she said. “I am a visual learner, so watching those videos definitely helped. A lot of it was also trial-and-error. I just practiced different techniques and tried different approaches, but a lot of it definitely came from watching other creators.”

The following October, Chapman decided to post herself in a new makeup creation every day leading up to Halloween. Now, her “31 Days of Halloween” has become an online tradition for Chapman and each of her followers.

The more Chapman practiced, the more detailed and complex her creations would become, she added.

"It's been a fun learning process — learning which materials work best. I guess, with any artist, when your technique evolves, your creations get more elaborate," she said.

That hard work eventually caught the eyes of the organizers behind the Dickens Christmas Festival as they were planning their very first event. Ninon Parker, one of the organizers, said they reached out to Chapman to see if she would be interested in helping them bring a handful of the classic Dickens characters to life.

Chapman didn't hesitate. Ghostly makeup was her specialty, after all.

That first year, Chapman did make up for four

characters plus herself. That year, she played the role of the Ghost of Christmas Past.

"I've done that twice, I think, or maybe three times," Chapman said, adding that because of time restrictions, she prefers now to step back from her own character to focus on everyone else's makeup for the festival.

"I would have to start so early to do my own makeup and then show up to do everyone else's makeup," she recalled. "It just makes it an easier day to do makeup for them. Plus, I find joy in watching them become their characters."

Chapman said she's made lifelong friends from the venture that began over a decade ago. While a few of the characters have come and gone, some like the Christophers have remained dedicated to their roles.

In the last few years,

Chapman's festival workload became a little lighter when the group was joined by Marie Sassin, another local makeup artist who has taken on the Ghost of Christmas Past.

"She's a really good friend of mine, and she's taken up that role and does a really great job on her own makeup," Chapman said.

Together, she and Sassin feed off one another's creativity as they continue to develop the beloved characters that return to the Dickens Christmas Festival year after year.

Chapman said she's also begun to branch out and do other special effects makeup for people outside of the Halloween season or Christmas festival. It's something she's hoping to further develop and incorporate into her photography business.

"I hope it's something I can embark on next year," she said. "I love portraiture, and creative portraiture is my favorite. That's an element I'd like to add that I think would be a lot of fun for me and for clients."

When asked what draws her to portraiture, she said the answer is the same thing that drives her to do makeup.

"It's connection," she said. "I like trying to capture who a person is in their portrait. You know, a lot of times when I do portraits of people, I've never met them before. So, it's really a compliment when they say, 'That's totally me,' or 'You truly captured me and who I am.' Doing makeup has also helped me make some of those connections with people."



FAMILY'S HEIRLOOM QUILT DONATED to BELLE MONT

Story by Chelsea Retherford
Photography by Dan Busey

Mary Bea Ellis,
Jeanie McNees and
Catherine Madden
stand for a portrait
with the quilt.

Around 1851, Sarah "Sallie" Elizabeth Pride began work on a quilt she couldn't have known would survive in her family nearly 173 years and be passed down from woman to woman until it reached her thrice-great niece, Margaret Jean "Jeanie" Bullock McNees.

Decades and generations later, McNees, her daughters and her niece have decided to pass on the family heirloom to Belle Mont Mansion in Tuscumbia, where the quilt might be better preserved for several more generations to see.

"It's been in a cedar chest for the last hundred years," Catherine Madden, one of McNees' two daughters, said, adding that neither she nor her sister, Mary Bea Ellis, are sorry to pass on the inheritance of the quilt.

"Nobody has gotten any value out of it, and if it comes to me, or if it goes to her, what does that do? It's going to be much more appreciated for its true value, I think, at some place like Belle Mont," Madden said. "It's so much better, because it's not just our eyes on it now. This way, it can be appreciated by so many more people."

While stories of her four-times-great grandmother Sallie Pride had been passed down alongside the heirloom, Madden said she has very few memories with the quilt, as it needed to be kept away safe to ensure it could continue to survive.

Work on the quilt continued for nearly a decade as Pride painstakingly stitched several stars onto the quilt along with details about the American Revolution and each president who had been elected to the office up to Zachary Taylor — who had a blank star on the quilt, but his name had been left off.

"Over the years, all of us have wondered, did she just not like him, or did she not have time to stick his name in before the war started," McNees said with a laugh.

The family guessed it was about 1860 when Pride deemed

the quilt complete, though as McNees points out, she may have been forced to "finish" her work early with the onset of the American Civil War.

For fear of her home being ransacked or burned, Pride is said to have buried the quilt in a metal box somewhere in Colbert County until the war was over. The quilt was dug back up nearly unscathed, though it did appear to have some water damage that is still notable today.

Though the quilt survived the War Between the States, and it made it through many years of being shown at county fairs from Alabama to Texas, Madden and her mother admit the quilt is "in pretty bad shape."

The quilt finally came to McNees through her mother, Margaret Cramer Thomson Bullock, who documented much of the quilt's and her family's history in a dissertation she wrote as a student at Florence State Teachers College.

In rereading her mother's research paper, McNees said she understood why Pride was so dedicated to stitching an Independence Day quilt.

"We had several ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War, so that must've been important to her," McNees said, as she retold the story behind the stitchwork that her mother had also preserved.

The center of Pride's quilt features a five-pointed woolen star, in which Pride embroidered the year 1776 above the name of the state that had adopted resolutions pointing toward independence as early as May of 1775. That first state was North Carolina.

Pride's quilt also includes the last paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, and below it, 12 more stars bearing the names of the 12 states whose representatives signed the declaration.

"She did all this back when there were no computers to



research. They had no encyclopedias or books,” McNees said. “Can you image all the work that went into her research? Then she had to apply all that in stitching to the quilt.”

McNees, a proud, longtime dedicated member of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, took the quilt on a few occasions to share with her sisters in the organization. Once, she even tried to donate the quilt to DAR in hopes of having it restored and preserved.

“Although they wanted it, they also felt like they couldn’t take it into their collection in the shape it was in,” McNees said, adding that she’d also consulted authorities with the Smithsonian Institute, which gave her a similar answer.

After further discussing options with her daughters, and her niece, Ann Henninger Hamilton — who might’ve also had a fair claim to the family heirloom — the women descended from Sallie Pride agreed the quilt should be donated, but that it should stay in Colbert County.

“That’s where it was made, and that’s where it was put in the ground during the Civil War,” McNees said emphatically. “So, I talked to Ninon Parker at Belle Mont, and they were thrilled to have it. So, we’re all feeling really good about it too.”

Laura Emily Everitt, interim site director at Belle Mont Mansion, said the quilt will be kept safe in the mansion’s nursery. She added that the entire house has climate control and ultraviolet (U.V.) window protection, which help ensure the quilt’s safe keeping.

“The nursery will be the easiest spot for visitors to see it without touching it,” Everitt said. “The Independence Quilt has such a rich history, with ties to both Colbert County and United States history, we are thrilled that wonderful piece of craftsmanship will be on display at Belle Mont for all guests to enjoy. We are honored that Ms. McNees and her family have entrusted us with its care.”



Details of the quilt inside the Belle Mont Mansion.

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Photos by Metro.

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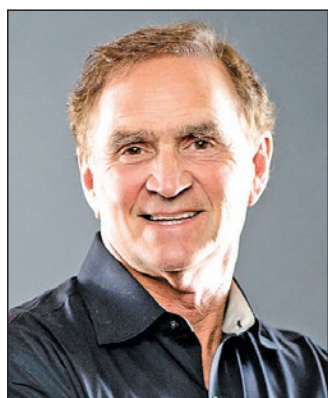


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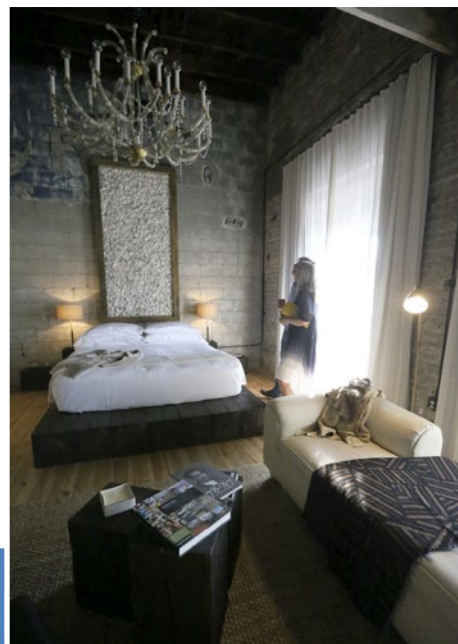


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"Patches," "Slip Away"

CLARENCE CARTER

"Too Weak to Fight"

CRAIG MORGAN

"That's What I Love About Sunday"

DARRYL WORLEY

"Awful, Beautiful Live"
"I Miss My Friend"

Sledge



SONGS Recorded *in the Shoals*

Here is a partial list of hit songs that were either recorded at studios in the Muscle Shoals area, written by Shoals songwriters or recorded with studio musicians from the Shoals:

**DELBERT MCCLINTON**

"Givin' It Up For Your Love"

THE DELLS

"Give Your Baby a Standing Ovation"

DONNY OSMOND

"Go Away Little Girl," "Sweet and Innocent" "Hey Girl"

DR. HOOK

"Sexy Eyes," "Sharing the Night Together," "When You're In Love with a Beautiful Woman"

EARL THOMAS CONLEY

"Holding Her and Loving You"

FLORIDA-GEORGIA LINE

"Round Here"
"Get Your Shine On"

GEORGE JONES AND TAMMY WYNETTE

"We're Gonna Hold On"

GLENN FREY

"Smuggler's Blues"
"Sexy Girl"

Franklin

**HEARTLAND**

"I Loved Her First"

HOLLIS DIXON & THE KEYNOTES

"Paper Boy"

JAMES & BOBBY PURIFY

"I'm Your Puppet"

JIMMY BUFFETT

"Bama Breeze"

JIMMY HUGHES

"Steal Away"

JOE TEX

"Hold What You Got"

JOHN MICHAEL MONTGOMERY

"I Swear"

JOHNNY TAYLOR

"I Believe in You (You Believe in Me)"

KENNY CHESNEY

"Ain't Back Yet"

KENNY CHESNEY & TIM MCGRAW

"Feel Like a Rock Star"



LEANN RIMES
"Commitment"

LENNY LEBLANC AND PETE CARR
"Falling"

LONESTAR
"I'm Already There"

LUKE BRYAN
"Drunk on You"

LUTHER INGRAM
"If Loving You is Wrong (I Don't Want to Be Right)"

MAC DAVIS
"Baby Don't Get Hooked on Me," "Stop and Smell the Roses"



MARY MACGREGOR
"Torn Between Two Lovers"

MILLIE JACKSON
"Feelin' Bitchy," "Get It Outcha System"

MINDY MCREADY
"Guys Do it (All the Time)"

OAK RIDGE BOYS
"Bobbie Sue," "I Guess it Never Hurts to Hurt Sometime," "American Made"

THE OSMONDS
"One Bad Apple," "Sweet & Innocent"

PAM TILLIS
"Deep Down"

PAUL SIMON
"Loves Me Like a Rock," "Still Crazy After All These Years," "Kodachrome"

PERCY SLEDGE
"When a Man Loves a Woman"

R.B. GREAVES
"Take a Letter Maria"

REBA MCENTIRE
"The Fear of Being Alone"

ROD STEWART
"Tonight's the Night"

THE ROLLING STONES
"Wild Horses," "You Gotta Move," "Brown Sugar"

RUSHLOW
"I Can't Be Your Friend"

SAILCAT
"Motorcycle Mama"
Sanford & Townsend
"Smoke from a Distant Fire"

SAWYER BROWN
"Treat Her Right," "This Time," "Thank God For You"

SHENANDOAH
"I Got You," "Rock My Baby," "Ghost in This House"

SONS OF THE DESERT
"Whatever Comes First"

STAPLE SINGERS
"Come Go With Me," "I'll Take You There," "Respect Yourself"

TEMPTATIONS
"A Song for You," "House Party"

T.G. SHEPPARD
"Strong Heart," "One For the Money"

THELMA HOUSTON
"Any Way You Like It"

TIM MCGRAW
"Some Things Never Change"
"One of Those Nights"

TRAVIS TRITT
"Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde"

TYLER FALL
"Redneck Crazy"

WAYLON JENNINGS
"We Had it All"

WILLIE NELSON
"Bloody Mary Morning"

WILSON PICKETT
"Don't Knock My Love," "Land of 1,000 Dances," "Mustang Sally"



FAMOUS Shoals Faces

Shoals boasts many
well-known celebrities.

From Grammy-award winning musicians, songwriters and producers to world-known fashion designers to sports figures to history changers and politicians, many influential personalities past and present have ties to the Shoals area and can be seen from time to time in the area.

GARY BAKER

The local singer, songwriter and producer won a Grammy in 1994 for co-writing the No. 1 crossover hit, "I Swear" and in 2001 co-wrote Lonestar's No. 1 country hit, "I'm Already There" and Alabama's No. 1 country hit, "Once Upon a Lifetime." Baker also has worked with stars Reba McEntire, LeAnn Rimes, Mac Davis, Marie Osmond, Nick Lachey, Jessica Simpsons, the Backstreet Boys and 98 Degrees. His Florence recording studio, Noiseblock, has a partnership with the University of North Alabama to teach students recording arts.

Natalie Chanin



NATALIE CHANIN

The Florence native is a renowned fashion designer whose line of clothing, Alabama Chanin, is highlighted by uniqueness and hand-sewn detail. Chanin's clothing line continues to have a focus on the environment. Many of her projects come from recycled T-shirts. She returned to Florence to work in the fine hand-stitching that's a signature of her clothing line. Her clothing sells to high-end stores such as Barney's in New York. Her clothing has also been featured in various national and international fashion magazines. Chanin also created The School of Making, which provides inspirational workshops and experiences.

STEWART CINK

A veteran among the professional golf ranks, Cink has eight Professional Golf Association Tour wins, including the 2009 British Open. The Bradshaw High School graduate and Florence native turned professional in 1995 after graduating from Georgia Tech University. He joined the PGA Tour in 1997 and collected more than \$43 million in earnings during his career. He also has been a part of four Presidents Cup, five Ryder Cup and two World Cup teams.

Adam Evans



ADAM EVANS

The Muscle Shoals native captured the "Oscar of the Food World" in 2022 when he won the James Beard Best Chef in the South award while serving as owner and executive chef of Automatic Seafood and Oysters in Birmingham. In 2024, Evans along with his wife Suzanne opened Current Charcoal Grill also in Birmingham. He graduated from Auburn University with a degree in psychology in 2002. During his junior year at Auburn, he decided to pursue a culinary career by spending summers as a line cook at The Grand Hotel in Fairhope. From

there, he travelled all over the U.S. with culinary stops in New Orleans, New York City, Los Angeles and Atlanta before opening Automatic Seafood and Oysters in Birmingham in 2019. Some of the famed chefs Evans has worked with include Gerard Maras, Tom Colicchio and Jonathan Waxman.

JASON ISBELL

The Greenhill native has six Grammy Awards to his credit, including the latest one in 2024. Isbell and his band The 400 Unit took home two Grammys in 2024 when their album "Weathervanes" won for Best Americana Album, and a track from the album, "Cast Iron Skillet," won for Best American Roots Song.

Isbell and The 400 Unit's first Grammy win came in 2016 when they received the award for Best Americana Album for "Something More Than Free," and the Best American Roots Song for the track "24 Frames."

Two years later, Isbell and the band won the Best Americana Album for



"The Nashville Sound" and Best American Roots Song for "If We Were Vampires."

A former member of the Drive-By Truckers, Isbell's star began to rise after the release of "Southeastern" in 2014, the same year he won three awards from the Americana Music

Association.

In 2023, HBO debuted "Running With Our Eyes Closed," a documentary that follows the making of Jason Isbell's 2020 album "Reunions."

RICK HALL (1932-2018)

Hall was the founder of FAME Recording Studios and the acknowledged "Father of Muscle Shoals Music."

He was featured in the 2013 documentary "Muscle Shoals," which was the same year he received the Grammy Trustees Awards by the Recording Academy, which recognized his success in the music business.

Beginning in 1961, Hall produced and/or engineered some of the most memorable songs of the second half of the 20th Century, including Wilson Pickett's "Mustang Sally," Clarence Carter's "Patches," Etta James' "Tell Mama" and Aretha Franklin's "I Never Loved a Man (the Way I Love You)."

In the 1970s, he moved into pop and country, and scored hits with

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the Osmonds, Mac Davis, Bobbie Gentry, Shenandoah and others.

Kent Records of England issued a four-disc boxed set of Hall's 1960s and 1970s FAME recordings in 2011. Hall's autobiography, "The Man From Muscle Shoals: My Journey From Shame to Fame," was released in 2015.

FAME remains an active studio today as his son Rodney Hall carries on the tradition.



Rick Hall

W.C. HANDY (1873-1958)

William Christopher Handy was born in a log cabin in west Florence in 1873 and is the namesake for "The W.C. Handy Music Festival," which is the Shoals' largest annual event, which runs for some 10 days starting in late July. The man who became known as the "Father of the Blues" left the area at a young age and went on to compose the "St. Louis Blues" and other jazz songs such as "Beale Street Blues" and "Memphis Blues."

Handy's talents and efforts helped create and popularize the blues.

HELEN KELLER (1880-1968)

Most likely the most famous resident of the Shoals, Keller was known as "The First Lady of Courage."

Keller, who was born and raised in Tuscumbia, became blind and deaf at a young age from an illness that many believed to have been scarlet fever.

In 1887, her family hired Anne Sullivan to teach Keller. The association with Sullivan changed Keller from a wild and unruly child.

She went on to accomplish many things, graduating from Radcliffe College and becoming famous worldwide. People around the world visit her birthplace, Ivy Green in Tuscumbia.

Tuscumbia's annual Helen Keller Festival is held in late June to coincide with her June 27 birthday.

HOWELL HEFLIN (1921-2005)

The Tuscumbian who died in 2005 served as an Alabama

U.S. senator from 1979 to 1997. He was a member of the Judiciary Committee and was heavily involved in hearings on nominees to the U.S. Supreme Court, including the highly publicized Clarence Thomas hearings.

Heflin also served as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court and wrote a judicial article that modernized Alabama's courts. Known as "the judge," he was a popular senator who won three elections with wide margins of victory and was a Democrat with a reputation of bipartisanship. Heflin was a 1st lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and was awarded the Silver Star and two Purple Hearts.

GEORGE LINDSEY (1928-2012)

Lindsey, who will always be best known for his role as Gooper on "The Andy Griffith Show," was a former quarterback for the football team at Florence State Teachers College, which today is the University of North Alabama. The annual George Lindsey/UNA

George
Lindsey



Film Festival is named in his honor at UNA, where he established the George Lindsey Academic Scholarships.

MAC MCANALLY

The Red Bay native and Sheffield resident has been recognized as

the Country Music Association's Musician of the Year 10 times. McAnally has recorded 15 albums and was a member of Jimmy Buffett's touring Coral Reefer Band, producing several of Buffett's albums, including the No. 1 "License to Chill," and has written numerous songs for Buffett. Many singers have recorded McAnally's songs, including Alabama, which took his "Old Flame" to No. 1 in 1981.

MITCH MCCONNELL

A native of Sheffield, McConnell moved to Kentucky and is the longest-serving Senate party leader in American history, having served a total of nine stints either as Senate majority and minority leader since 2006.

TIME Magazine has named him one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World three times.

He is married to Elaine I. Chao, who has served as secretary of labor and secretary of transportation.



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OZZIE NEWSOME

The Leighton native gained the nickname “The Wizard of Oz” for his ability to make circus catches. Upon retiring from playing the game, Newsome became a wizard in the front office.

A Leighton native, he played for Colbert County High School, the University of Alabama and the Cleveland Browns. The tight end ultimately was inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame.

Newsome later became general manager of the Baltimore Ravens, making him the first African-American to become an NFL general manager.

Sam Phillips



SAM PHILLIPS (1923-2003)

Credited with discovering Elvis Presley, Phillips will forever be known as the “Father of Rock ‘n’ Roll.”

The Florence native is the founder of Sun Records in Memphis. In 1953, Phillips discovered Presley, and also is credited with launching the careers of Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, B.B. King, Carl Perkins and Roy Orbison.

The Sam Phillips Music Celebration is held annually in the Shoals to honor Phillips and his legacy.

In 2017, CMT created a series titled “Sun Records.” The two-year series was based on Phillips and the stories of the studio.

QUEEN

The grandmother of “Roots” author Alex Haley lived and worked for several years on the Forks of Cypress Plantation, which was owned by the Jackson family, just north of Florence. She was the illegitimate and unacknowledged daughter of James Jackson III and his slave, Easter.

Queen was highlighted in the 1993 CBS movie, “Alex Haley’s Queen,” which starred Halle Berry as Queen. Haley began writing the book about his grandmother but died before it was finished. The book was completed by David Stevens, a friend of Haley’s.

Billy Reid



BILLY REID

An internationally recognized fashion designer known to give classic American designs subtle modern twists with nods to Southern gentility, Reid owns and operates his headquarters and design studio on Court Street in

downtown Florence.

The Florence location is among 12 stores, including ones in New York, Chicago, New Orleans, Dallas and Nashville.

He has partnerships with upscale retailers, including Bergdorf Goodman and Bloomingdale's. After living in New York, Reid, a native of Amite, Louisiana, whose wife, Jeanne, is from Florence, moved to north Alabama in 2002. He opened his flagship shop and

Dred Scott



studio, Pickett Place, before moving into the Court Street location in 2009.

DRED SCOTT (C.1799-1858)

The man whose name is synonymous with the earliest civil rights battles lived in Florence as a slave in 1820 with Peter Blow and worked in a hotel that Blow owned. Scott lived in Florence until 1830 when he and Blow moved to St. Louis. In 1846, Scott sued for his freedom, claiming he should be free since he had lived on free soil. The case went to the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled against him in 1857. Historians say the Dred Scott case widened the gap between the North and the South and brought the nation closer to the Civil War.

PERCY SLEDGE (1940-2015)


The Leighton native became known worldwide in 1966 when the song, "When a Man Loves a Woman," was released and moved up the music charts to No. 1. It was No. 53 in the list of Rolling Stone magazine's 500 greatest songs of all time.

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Percy Sledge



Sledge recorded other songs such as “Warm and Tender Love,” “It Tears Me Up” and “Take Time to Know Her.” He is recognized as one of the artists who helped make Muscle Shoals music world famous.

T.S. STRIBLING (1881-1965)

The Pulitzer Prize-winning graduate of Florence Normal School, which now is the University of North Alabama, wrote 16 novels, but is best known for a trilogy of books set in and around Florence. The second novel in that trilogy, “The Store,” won the 1933 Pulitzer for fiction.

THE MUSCLE SHOALS RHYTHM SECTION

The group, made up of Barry Beckett, Roger Hawkins, David Hood and Jimmy Johnson, was a house band, working backup for music artists coming through the Shoals in the 1960s and 1970s, the heyday of the Muscle Shoals Music Scene.

The group was featured in the 2013 documentary “Muscle Shoals” about FAME Studios and Muscle Shoals Sound Studio.

The group has appeared on classic recordings by top-named artists. They began their career at Rick Hall’s FAME Studios, appearing with Wilson Pickett, Aretha Franklin, Clarence Carter, Arthur Conley and Etta James.

In 1969, with the support of Atlantic Records and producer Jerry Wexler, they opened Muscle Shoals Recording Studios at 3614 Jackson Highway in Sheffield.

There, the group worked with R.B. Greaves, The Rolling Stones, Paul Simon, Bob Seger, The Staple Singers, Willie Nelson, Leon Russell, Rod Stewart and Lynyrd Skynyrd, among a list of others.

It was Lynyrd Skynyrd’s adoration of them that moved the band to include a nod to the Swampers in their hit, “Sweet Home, Alabama.” David Hood remains the last living member of the group. Barry Beckett died in 2009, Jimmy Johnson in 2019 and Roger Hawkins in 2021.

FRED THOMPSON (1942–2015)

An actor and former U.S. Senator who once ran for president, Thompson was born in then Colbert County Hospital (now Helen Keller Hospital) in Sheffield. He lived a short time with his family on Colbert Heights Mountain before moving to Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, where he was raised. He attended the University of North Alabama before transferring to Memphis State.

Thompson was a U.S. senator representing Tennessee from 1994-2002 and ran unsuccessfully as a Republican presidential candidate in 2008.

An attorney by profession, he served on the minority council of the Senate Watergate Committee. He became an actor and appeared in numerous movies and television series, maybe best known as Arthur Branch, the district attorney in NBC’s “Law and Order.”

ED YEILDING

The time was 68 minutes, 17 seconds. The day was March 6, 1990. That is when the Florence native and resident flew an SR-71 “Blackbird” jet coast to coast, setting a record that remains intact today. The average speed during that trip was 2,189.94 mph. Lt. Col. Yeilding shattered the old coast-to-coast record of 3 hours, 38 minutes, set 27 years earlier.

Ed Yeilding



BILL YOAST (1924-2019)

Yoast grew up in Florence, attended Coffee High School and loved the game of football. He eventually got into high school coaching and gained national fame in 1971.

That was the year integration combined two schools in Virginia, where Yoast was coaching. Yoast found himself going from head coach at Alexandria High School to assistant at the new T.C. Williams High School.

Yoast, who is white, bonded with black head coach Herman Boone, and that friendship and working relationship led the team to the state championship. The season and the team, along with Yoast and Boone, inspired the 2000 hit movie, “Remember the Titans.”

JOHN PAUL WHITE

The Florence resident was formerly part of The Civil Wars, teaming with Joy Williams, of Nashville. The duo won Grammy awards in consecutive years. The songwriting and singing partners made numerous television appearances, released the best-selling “Barton Hollow” album and had surprise concert appearances with Taylor Swift, one of their most ardent fans.

White continues to write music and some of his songs were used in the ABC television show, “Nashville.” Today, he is a partner in the Florence-based Single Lock Records and continues writing and touring.

John Paul White



DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS

Florence native Patterson Hood and Tuscumbia native Mike Cooley have been performing together for decades, but The Drive-By Truckers is where they made their mark. The band, which today also includes Jay Gonzalez, Matt Patton

and Brad Morgan, has had well-known previous members including Spooner Oldham and Jason Isbell. The Drive-By Truckers have become a Southern rock institution and are back together and embarking on a 2024 tour.

THE SECRET SISTERS

The Greenhill sisters Laura Rogers and Lydia Slagle have become well-known and respected, were nominated for Grammys in 2021 for Best American Roots Song for "Cabin," and Best Folk Album their album, "Saturn Return."

JOSH WILLINGHAM

Willingham enjoyed a long Major League Baseball career from 2004-2014 that saw him collect nearly 1,000 hits, including 195 home runs. Primarily an outfielder, he played for the Marlins, Nationals, A's, Twins and Royals. In 2012, he hit 35 homers and 110 runs batted in with the Twins, earning an American League Silver Slugger Award in the outfield.

While at UNA from 1998-2000 he

tied or broke 14 school records. Today, the former Mars Hill High School and University of North Alabama standout is better known around his old high school as Coach Willingham, ever since taking over the baseball program in 2021.

Josh Willingham



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Myths & Legends

DETROIT, ALABAMA STYLE

Could you imagine this place as the automobile hub of the world?

Well, in 1921, Henry Ford and Thomas Edison came to the Shoals with a vision of making the area a huge metropolis. Ford said it would become the "Detroit of the South."

He wanted to build a factory that would employ as many as 1 million workers. Ford envisioned a city 75 miles long.

He offered to buy Wilson Dam, but that was turned down by Congress, which later formed the Tennessee Valley Authority to

develop the dam and the TVA river system.

At the time, residents were disappointed the Detroit vision didn't work out, but most say today they are thankful the Shoals was able to maintain its small-town traits.

There still is a hint of Ford's visions, however. Many of Muscle Shoals' main streets are named after major Detroit streets.

SPOOKINESS

If you like to get spooked, you're at the right place. The Shoals is full

of ghost stories to make your spine tingle.

One popular tale is about Mrs. Winston, who was killed in a tornado at her home, which today is a historic building on Deshler High School's campus in Tuscumbia.

Mrs. Winston's ghost has been known to peer out the window at passersbys, and it's a tradition to leave her an invitation at the house if you are going to have an event there, lest she haunt the gathering.

Another ghost story is of a child who was killed after being bitten by a rabid dog.





Judith Winston, who died in the Winston Home after an 1874 tornado.

For a few years the home was the location of an off-campus bookstore across from the university until it moved toward the intersection of Pine Street and Wood Avenue.

Many students, employees and owners tell of sightings of the girl's ghost, which sometimes asks, "Have you seen my dog?"

In fact, there are so many

stories that historic ghost tours are available in downtown Florence and Tuscumbia in October.

THE SINGING RIVER

If you like music, you've come to the right place. The Shoals has a long history of musical influence, with countless Billboard Top 40 hits recorded in the area throughout the years.

Perhaps a story passed down through the centuries by American Indians who settled in the area foreshadowed that success.

American Indians gave the portion of the Tennessee River that runs through here the nickname "Singing River."

The story goes that the name was created because the shoals in the river were so abundant that a hard breeze would produce a noise as it traveled over them. The noise sounded musical.

It is said that the river continued to "sing" after American Indians fell victim to forced federal government relocations in the 1800s. The singing river was beckoning them back home.

Photo taken on March 8, 1934, by W.N. Manning for the Historical American Buildings Survey, of the Winston home in Tuscumbia. (Photo from HABS)



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The Legislature was so moved by the tale that it named the newest bridge across the Shoals the "Singing River Bridge."

MUSSEL/MUSCLE SHOALS

There remains disagreement about the origin of the name Muscle Shoals, one of the "Quad Cities" in the area.

Some say it's another spelling for the river's mussels, which is why the city should have been spelled "Mussel Shoals."

Others claim it honors those whose labor helped build the area through their hard work and muscle, hence "Muscle Shoals."

Either way, the official name remains Muscle Shoals.

LEGENDARY ROBBER

One of the most infamous criminals in our nation's history once came calling to the Shoals.

Jesse James and his gang hit the area on March 11, 1881 and made off with \$5,200 in federal paychecks.



Jesse and Frank James and company robbed a Muscle Shoals Canal paymaster of the checks shortly after the paymaster had gone into Florence for the money. The robbery, near Killen in Lauderdale County, involved three men on horseback who confronted the paymaster and took the federal money.

HAIL TO THE VISITORS

No fewer than six U.S. presidents have visited the Shoals. William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy and Jimmy Carter visited during their presidential terms.

Rutherford Hayes was here as a Civil War Union officer and Andrew Jackson encamped here during the War of 1812.

SWAMP THINGS

One of rock 'n' roll's best-known anthems, "Sweet Home, Alabama," not only pays homage to the state, but to a group of talented musicians from the Shoals.

When Lynyrd Skynyrd sings the line, "Now Muscle Shoals has got the Swampers," in the song, the band is speaking of the musicians who helped record hit after hit in the 1970s, including some for Skynyrd.

Those recordings helped members of Skynyrd and the Swampers form tight bonds.



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If you find the occasion to drive across the easternmost portion of Tennessee Street in Florence, you supposedly are taking part in a plan hatched in the late 1800s to prove one of the area’s most notorious villains wrong.

“Mountain” Tom Clark had committed about every heinous crime imaginable in the area during those days. The story goes that he finally was captured and scheduled to be hanged, but that wasn’t good enough for local residents, who lynched him and buried him under what became Tennessee Street.

They chose that spot for a purpose: it was and continues to be one of the most-traveled roads in the area, thus making Clark’s well-known boast — “No one will ever run over Mountain Tom Clark” — wrong.

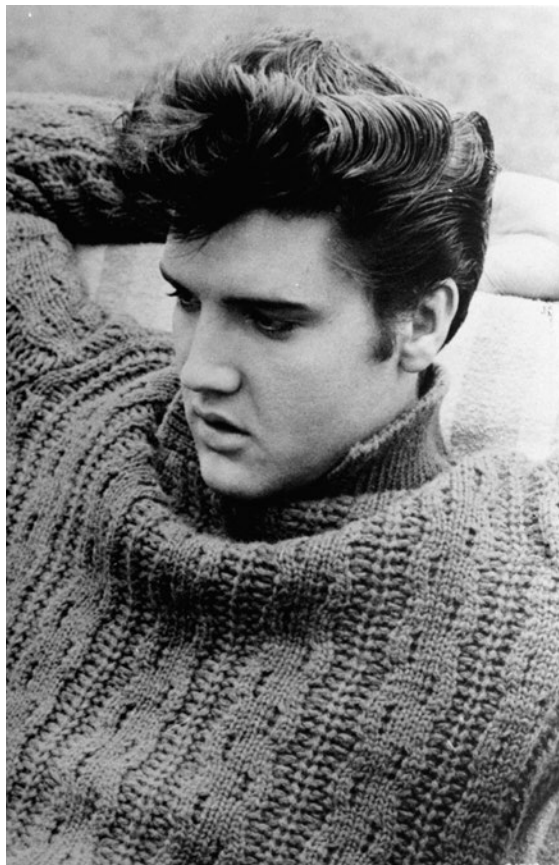
A historic market at the Florence City Cemetery at that stretch of road describes the incident.

LONG LIVE THE KING

There were plenty of Elvis sightings in Sheffield, even before the singer became a national icon. Elvis Presley was a regular at Sheffield Community Center, where he honed his skills.

The center had a reputation at the time as an important spot to reach in order to achieve stardom. Jerry Lee Lewis, Johnny Cash and Carl Perkins are others who played at the center, which today has been remodeled into Park Place retirement center on North Montgomery Avenue.

It also was common to see Elvis spend leisure time in town, with the old Woody-Mac Drive-In among the spots where he would pull in his pink Cadillac.



This 1958 photo provided by RCA Victor shows Elvis Presley.



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CAMPGROUNDS

The Shoals offers plenty of sites for primitive and RV camping, many of which are along the beautiful Tennessee River.



BRUSH CREEK PARK

Lauderdale 14, near Waterloo
Brush Creek Park in Lauderdale County now has 12 new camping sites for recreational vehicles, an additional picnic pavilion, an additional bathhouse, and restroom facilities. All of the facilities will be handicapped-accessible. There also are boat ramps at the campground that provide easy access to the water for campers and fishing enthusiasts. Open from April through late October. Thirty-day maximum stay. 256-760-5878 or 256-760-5750

COLBERT ALLOYS PARK AND CAMPGROUND

180 Alloys Park Lane, Muscle Shoals
Located on Wilson Lake, has RV, tent and primitive camping; electricity; water; sewage and dump station; bathhouse; and boat ramp. The park is open year round. 256-577-9619

COLBERT ROSE TRAIL

9395 Riverton Rose Trail, Cherokee
Located on Pickwick Lake, the grounds include tent and primitive camping, electricity, water, dump station, piers, pavilion, bathrooms, showers and seasonal boat ramps. Open all year. 256-360-2764

HERITAGE ACRES RV PARK

1770 Neil Morris Road, off U.S. 72, Tuscumbia
The park offers RV campsites with full hookups, coin laundry, bath house, free cable television, free WiFi. Daily, weekly and monthly rates are available, and big rigs and pets are welcome. 256-383-7368; heritageacresrvpark.com.

HIDDEN CREEK CAMPGROUND

1552 Woodmont Drive, Tuscumbia
Located 2 miles from downtown Tuscumbia, it has back-in and pull-thru sites with full hookups available. There is a laundry room with five washers and dryers along with a men's and women's bathhouse with five showers each. The lodge is also available to rent for functions like birthday parties, reunions, etc. 256-320-5097; hiddencreekcamping.com

TUSCUMBIA RV PARK

18260 U.S. 72, Tuscumbia
A park with 24 RV spots located about 7 miles west of Tuscumbia. Full hookups with electricity, water, sewage, WiFi, free laundry and shower building. The park is open year round. 256-383-2363 or 800-930-7275, or TuscumbiaRvPark.com.



Photo by Merito.

WILSON DAM ROCK PILE CAMPGROUND

663 Rock Pile Road, Muscle Shoals

A self-service campground opens mid-March through mid-November with 23 campsites. Rest rooms with heated showers and flush toilets, picnic tables and grills, boat ramps above and below the dam, lake and river fishing, hiking trail (10 miles), walking trail, nature area, wildlife viewing area, bird watching and bicycling. 800-882-5263; tva.gov/river/recreation/camping.htm#wilson.

MCFARLAND PARK

Alabama 20, Florence

The park has 60 campsites open year round with electrical and water connections. It also has rest rooms, bathhouse and laundry facilities. The park is conducive to tent camping. 256-740-8817.

JOE WHEELER STATE PARK

Rogersville

This state park offers resort facilities with a lodge, cabins, restaurant, fishing, golf, swimming, tennis, convention and banquet facilities and boat slips and marina. The upgraded campsites offer all amenities and primitive sites as well. 256-247-1184; joewheeler.park@dcnr.alabama.gov.

WHEELER RESERVATION CAMPGROUND

Alabama 101, east end of Wheeler Dam

Campground has 30 camping sites open from mid-March through late October. With water and electrical connections, the park has a free dumping station, bathhouse and a fishing pier for campers. Camping fee charged. First-come, first-serve basis with a maximum 30-day stay. No reservations. 256-760-5878 or 256-760-5750.



Brush Creek Park, near Waterloo.



Recreational camping at McFarland Park.



Wheeler Campground near Wheeler Dam.

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The best 18 holes in the Shoals

Story by Gregg Dewalt

Photos by Matt McKean and Patrick Hood

One of Robert Trent Jones Sr.'s integral golf design philosophies was that it should be hard to make a par and easier to make a bogey on any given hole.

That design influence can be found on three of Alabama's best golf courses located in the Shoals — Turtle Point Yacht and Country Club, and the self-named Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail's the Shoals Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster layouts.

Turtle Point, annually ranked among the top five courses in the state, was designed by Jones. Fighting Joe and Schoolmaster were the brainchild of Jones' protégé Roger Rulewich, who did the majority of the architecturally acclaimed Trail designs.

Why is that little bit of history important? Because those three courses contain the bulk of what a panel of local experts consider the best 18 holes in the Shoals.

But Jones' philosophy, while perhaps forged from his mentors, isn't the gospel of golf architecture. Every great designer has their own ideas for

architecture. So do most players.

So, what makes a great golf hole? Jeff Neuman, editor of *Met Golfer* magazine, offered insight in an email response.

"A great golf hole should be a challenge to the mind and body, and a delight to the senses. It should have a strategic element, offer more than one way to play it, and fit pleasingly in the landscape. Some would say it should look as though it was discovered rather than built; for others, it's like the joke about honesty and sincerity being the key to success in Hollywood ('As long as you can fake that, you've got it made') — artfully manufactured surroundings can serve just as well."

Many of the great holes are what Donald Ross called half-par holes: potentially driveable par-4s, reachable par-5s, long fours where the prudent play might be to lay up on the second shot. Holes that force decisions plant the seeds of doubt in a golfer's mind, and those seeds often sprout at the top of

the backswing.

For Tom Doak, “The best holes tend to be the ones that play into the most interesting greens.” Whether through size, tilt, contour, or surrounding hazards, they offer challenges that affect the golfer all the way back to the tee. He once told an associate, “If (you) made the green look as different as possible from opposite sides of the fairway, that would be a great start to an interesting hole.”

University of North Alabama golf coaches Cullen Carstens and Neil Self, UNA senior golfer Jackson Wedgeworth, Blackberry Trail’s Jason Vaughn, Cypress Lakes’ Scott Arndt and Les Holcombe, formerly of Turtle Point, compiled a list of their favorite local holes from seven courses based on aesthetics, shot



Robert Trent Jones at the Shoals has stunning views of the Tennessee River.

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value and playability. Panelists were asked to consider each of the holes from the middle tees to reflect where the majority of the general public plays from, although back tees were considered in some instances. The preliminary list featured 48 holes.

From there, the list was pared down to reflect which holes received the most votes. Par-3s were heavily favored among the panelists, with seven among the top vote-getters. However, to more closely reflect a traditional 18-hole, par-72 course, the list was separated into par-3s, par-4s and par-5s, and from there the top holes were selected to form the Shoals Dream 18.

The front nine plays to 3,630 yards from the middle tees and features water on five holes.

Dream 18: The Back Nine

After traversing a difficult outward nine holes of the Shoals' Dream 18, the back nine features spectacular views with fun holes and a sprinkling of danger at every turn.

The yardage on the back nine softens considerably once you get past the front's daunting 3,600-plus yards. The Dream 18's back nine plays to a modest 3,159 yards from

the middle tees with multiple chances for birdies. Dial in your iron play and get your putter working, and a sub-par score is easily attainable.

Make a few errors or get distracted by the scenery and a good round can quickly go south.

The back nine starts with a par-3 — No. 18 on Fighting Joe at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail the Shoals. Scott Arndt, the former director of golf at the RTJ facility who now manages Cypress Lakes, calls it the best finishing hole on the trail.

Players need to show off their ability to shape shots with their driver, needing a draw on one hole and a high fade on the next. The back nine also features a pair of risk-reward par-5s, a long, difficult par-3 and a smattering of fun short par-4s.

It ends with another spectacular view of Wilson Lake and a devilish short iron into the 18th green at Turtle Point.

Turtle Point, No. 13, Par 4 336/359 yards

Neil Self says: I've seen good players hit irons off the tee but I'll always use a driver. If the greens are firm, it's one of

the trickiest little wedge shots around. Hit the fairway and a solid little nipper you'll have a good look at birdie. Anything less and you probably won't keep it on the green.

Former TimesDaily sports editor Gregg Dewalt, avid golfer, says: This is just a tremendous short par-4 with multiple options from tee to green. You can bomb a driver as close to the green as possible or hit something less and leave a longer, yet more-full shot into a shallow green that is hard to hold. On paper, it looks like a birdie hole. In reality, it's a tough second shot to a green that is tough to hold and par is an acceptable score.

Schoolmaster, No. 16, Par 3 146/157 yards

Neil Self says: Beautifully carved out little par 3. Interesting green in both shape and severity. Triangle green makes for good variation.

Gregg Dewalt says: This is a hole that really fits a person's eye. Every time I play this hole with friends, I feel as if I could see a hole-in-one because you have a

short iron in your hands. That only adds to the thrill factor.

Turtle Point, No. 5, Par 5 493/566 yards

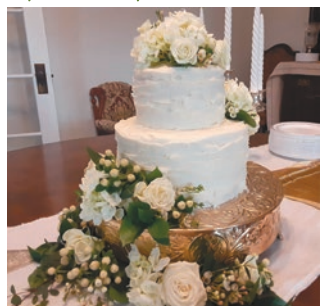
Cullen Carstens says: If you enjoy working the ball from left to right, this hole is for you. From the white tees, players can either hit a 220-240 shot straight away, or hit more and try to maneuver a cut around the trees guarding the corner. After the tee shots, the rest of the hole plays downhill with a pond guarding the front of the green. For the big hitters, a well-placed drive will leave you just a little too far to reach the green, but close enough to convince you to try it. Another hole where you have to think your way through every shot, the downhill elevation must be factored in on the layup shot, making sure you don't run through into the water. Approach shots to the green are usually from 80-120 yards, so make sure to leave yourself a number you are comfortable with. The green has a crown in the middle which will run putts towards both the front and back edges of the green. Such a great





The fifth green at Turtle Point is one of the toughest on the course.

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The 18th green at the clubhouse at Cypress Lakes Golf Course in Muscle Shoals.

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hole, I've seen just as many birdies as I have double-bogeys. Three good shots will earn you a par (or better), so if you can, take 5 and be thankful.

Fighting Joe, No. 5, Par 3
175/193 yards

Gregg Dewalt says: One of the few holes on Fighting Joe with significant elevation change, this is another one of the great par-3s in the area. Water can come into play on both sides of the green and also behind it, and bunkers protect the front. Because the tee shot is downhill, you get to track it all the way, wondering as the ball flies toward the green if you pulled the correct club. When the ball lands safely, you can let out a sigh of relief.

Blackberry Trail, No. 14, Par 4
303/336 yards

Gregg Dewalt says: This is a neat little hole that mostly requires a lay-up to 100 yards. The green is divided into two sections by a ridge and is one of the most perplexing on the course. Even though a short-iron approach should leave a player stalking a birdie, the slightest miss-hit can result in the ball resting in a watery grave and putting double bogey in play.

Schoolmaster, No. 2, Par 3
178/196 yards

Gregg Dewalt says: another really fine par-3 that you face early in the round on Schoolmaster. This deep green can play as much as three more clubs depending on the wind and the hole location. Water guards the front and right side of the green with bunkers on the left. It's another one of those holes where you'll take par and move on.



Cypress Lakes, No. 17, Par 3
184/224 yards

Jackson Wedgeworth says: A 230-yard carry over water to a protected green can be scary late in a round. This hole requires a great shot and some luck to hit the green. Many balls find the water all around this green. Keeping the ball dry on this hole is a great success.

Turtle Point, No. 10, Par 3
188/219 yards

Les Holcombe says: No. 10 is a great par-3 because of the shape of the green and the placement of the four bunkers, and it is 219 yards from on the back tee. It can take three different clubs depending on the hole location. And the back left bunker or over the green must be avoided.

Blackberry Trail, No. 8, Par 5
493/526 yards

Gregg Dewalt says: The perfect ending to an emergency nine — the classic risk-reward par-5. A good drive leaves a decision — try to carve a 3-wood or hybrid into a narrow opening for an eagle opportunity or lay up and go for birdie with a wedge or sand wedge. There is no bailout area if you go for it — a pull ends up in a penalty area and a fade ends up in a pond guarding the front and right side of the green. There's always a little indecision in the second shot if you go for the green in two because the pond extends slightly in front of the green.

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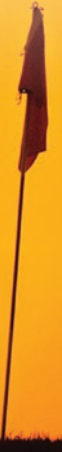
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Photo by Merto.



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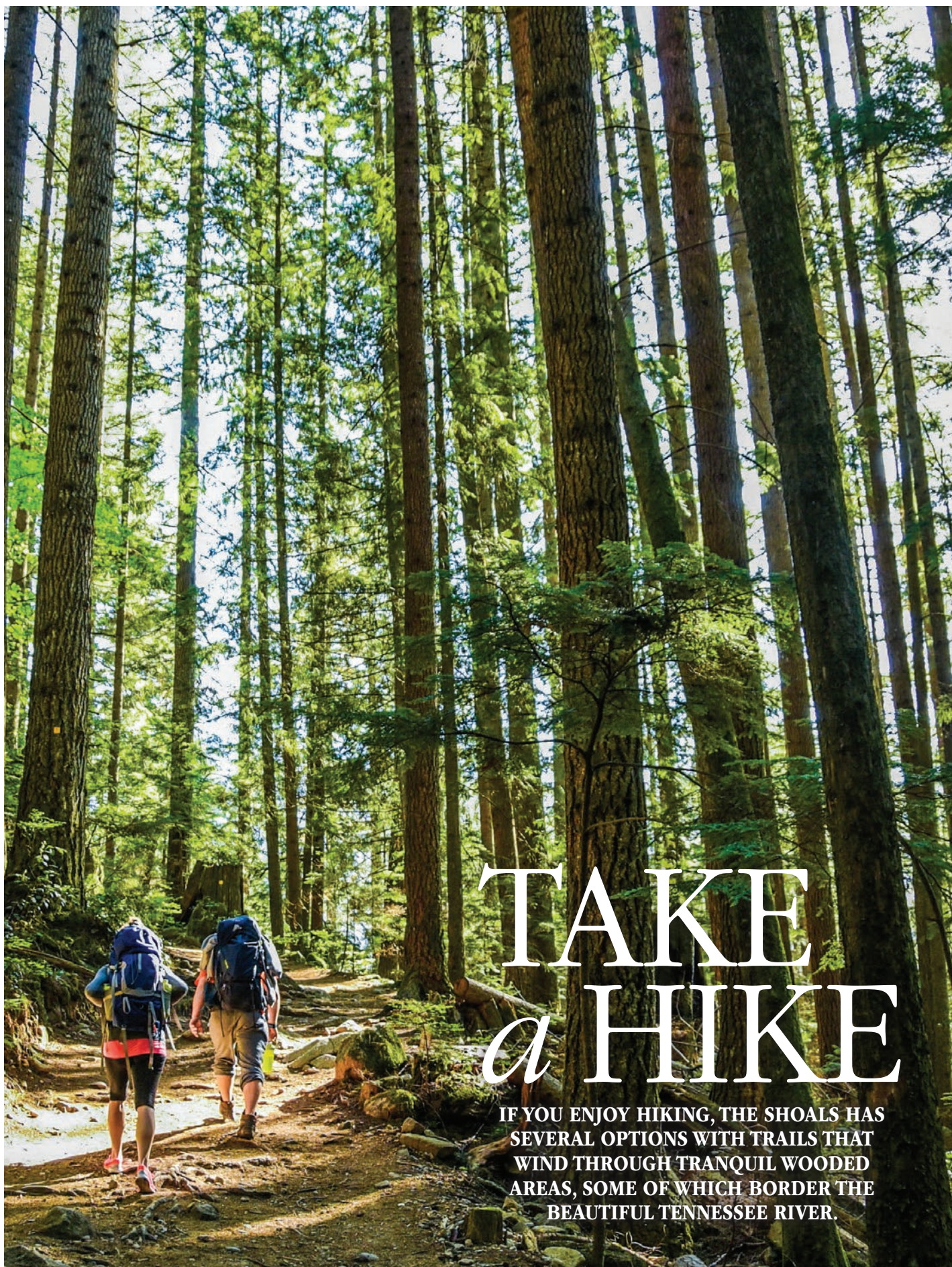
Singing River Sculpture



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Photo by Merto.

SHOAL CREEK NATURE PRESERVE

This picturesque place is a popular destination for those who enjoy a walk in the woods, horseback riding, bicycling and bird watching. The state-owned, 298-acre nature area features 4.5 miles of trails that provide views of cascading streams, wildflowers, wildlife and Shoal Creek. The preserve features varying habitats including fallow fields, mature upland hardwood stands and scenic creek bottoms. It also offers opportunities for fishing, canoeing, picnicking, photography and nature study. Motorized vehicles are only allowed in designated parking areas and access roads. An additional 2 miles of trails at the nature area are available for horseback riding and bicycling. The preserve is about 7 miles north of Florence and 2.5 miles north of St. Florian on Lauderdale 61. Access is available via a gravel road off Lauderdale 61.

ROCK SPRING NATURE TRAIL

Located west of Florence, this scenic trail is a part of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Visitors have an opportunity to see beaver and other wildlife. During the fall, numerous hummingbirds can be seen along the trail, feeding on the jewelweed that grows around Colbert Creek. A small natural spring bubbles from the rocks near a deep pool where fish dart about. After completing the 20-minute walk around the loop trail, you might be tempted to take off your shoes and dangle

your feet in the cool water. Vegetation and trees change as you move along the trail, past the stream, and on to a field and a rocky hillside. Steppingstones that provide access across Colbert Creek limit the opportunities for handicapped access to the trail.

KEY CAVE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Key Cave National Wildlife Refuge is located southwest of Florence and features more than 2.5 miles of gravel trails that provide opportunities for watching birds and other wildlife. Many of the birds seen there are grassland species that are not commonly found in north Alabama. The 1,060-acre refuge is on Lauderdale 204. Take Alabama 20 to Lauderdale 2 in Florence. Travel 5 miles west and turn south on Lauderdale 223 for 1.5 miles. Then turn west on 204 for 1/4 mile.

BANKHEAD NATIONAL FOREST

In addition to nature preserves, parks and other outdoor venues in the Shoals, Bankhead National Forest, in Lawrence, Winston and Franklin counties, has numerous trails ranging from narrow paths through wilderness to a multi-use trail where horses and all-terrain cycles can be ridden. The forest is a popular destination for campers, hikers, wildlife watchers, horse-back riders, canoeists and kayakers. Alabama 33 south of Moulton and Alabama 195 south of Haleyville provide access to the forest. 205-489-5111.



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Rock Spring,
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ALABAMA FOREVER WILD SHOAL CREEK PRESERVE, ST. FLORIAN

This beautiful part of Lauderdale County is perfect for beginning hikers, where scenic creek bottoms and vast woodlands comprise the well-marked trails. Wooden bridges decorate the 2.4-mile Jones Branch Loop and 1.8-mile Lawson Branch Loop, making them easy to cross and providing a rustic atmosphere. A cave in the area is a great place for spelunking. From Florence Boulevard, turn left onto Lauderdale 30, take first right onto Lauderdale 47, take second left onto Lauderdale 61, go about 2 miles and entrance road will be on the right.

WILDWOOD PARK, FLORENCE

Located a short distance from historic downtown Florence and the University of North Alabama, Wildwood Park offers trails ranging from beginner to advanced. The park is also ideal for mountain biking and jogging. The park has a picnic area. Going south on Pine Street, turn left onto Lion Drive, then turn left onto Circular Road. Continue onto Waterloo Road, turn left after about a half-mile, and the park will be on the left.





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RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL

offers picturesque views *of the Shoals*



A portion of the River Heritage Trail is shown from the Singing River Bridge on in Florence.

Story by Bernie Delinski

Photos by Dan Busey

A longtime vision of providing a trail overlooking the Tennessee River opened to the public in May 2024.

The 1.2-mile path winds its way from Riverfront Park to the Singing River Bridge. Along the way, it offers views of the river, Wilson Dam and the grassy area that once was the Florence Wagon Works site. Overlook areas provide good locations to stop and take in the views.

"It's beautiful to see it all come to fruition for the community," Parks and Recreation Director Bill Jordan said. "To have something right over the river is going to be really special for the community."

A grass amphitheater capable of holding 750 to 1,000 people for a concert is along the trail, Florence Mayor Andy Betterton said.

Betterton said this project has been a decades-long dream for city leaders. He said it was being worked on throughout his 12 years on the city council before becoming mayor.

"From my very first year on the council, this is something I wanted to see," he said. "This is going to be well received by the public. I hope someday that we'll be able to take this all the way to McFarland Park."

The trail connects the trailhead to the Patton Island Overlook to provide visitors with a picturesque pathway to explore the area's natural beauty. Along the route, interpretive displays highlight the Tennessee River's rich history, and several overlook points offer views of the surrounding landscape.

A notable historical feature along the trail is the Florence Wagon Works, a wagon manufacturing plant established in 1889 by A.D. Bellamy on the banks of the Tennessee River in Florence. By 1904, the factory employed 175 workers and produced 15,000 wagons annually at its peak.

As motorized trucks and tractors replaced horse-drawn wagons, the factory transitioned to manufacturing lawn chairs, swings and other furniture before eventually closing in 1941. Today, remnants of 17 buildings and structures remain, though

most are in ruins. The most intact structure is a wooden trestle that once carried the Louisville and Nashville Railroad line over a nearby creek.

Jordan said many people do not have a boat or water-adjacent property, and the trail provides a way for them to enjoy the river. He said it also offers an opportunity to learn about the area's history.

The trail, which is lighted, offers residents and visitors spaces to walk, bike, or run, enabling them to enjoy the outdoors while appreciating the beauty of nature and the river.

Jordan said the trail provides an additional feature to an area that includes the Renaissance Tower, Renaissance Shoals Hotel and Spa, Renaissance Shoals Conference Center and River Heritage Park and its splash pad.

This is the third node of the River Heritage project. The first node was the Florence Harbor Marina. The second node was the Patton Island Overlook.

The trail is expected to contribute to local economic growth by promoting tourism and increasing property values. It serves as a workforce development asset, as businesses looking to relocate often prioritize areas that offer their employees recreational and transportation options.



A newly acquired six-seat electric vehicle transports members of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area along the River Heritage Trail in Florence

The newest Singing River Sculpture was set in place in July 2024 with the location off South Court Street becoming home to the third in the series of sculptures that give homage to the Shoals' rich musical heritage.

The sculpture depicts a hat-adorned man leaning back while playing a trumpet raised upward. The man's right foot is extended forward, and left foot is back, indicating he is pouring all he has into the music.

Sculptor Eric Nubbe also has the statue wearing a vest with multiple squared holes.

Workers carefully guided the 2,000-pound structure onto 12 large bolts — six on each foot — to secure it in place on a platform the city had constructed for it.

Nubbe said one word that summarized his feeling after the mounting effort was a success.

"Relief," he said. "This started seven years ago."

Nubbe was pleased

Singing River Sculpture

PAYS HOMAGE TO AREA'S MUSICAL HERITAGE

Story by Bernie Delinski

Photos by Dan Busey

with the results.

"It looks good," he said. "The base turned out great. This space has been cleared out so it's going to be a nice welcoming to the city."

The location along the southbound lane of Court Street, near Bluff Street, has been transformed into a plaza where the statue is the centerpiece of an area that includes markers along a pathway

to the statue. A small parking lot also was constructed.

The sculpture is visible to northbound and southbound traffic.

Nubbe said the sculpture is approximately 18 feet tall, and he had it laying down during the sculpting process. It also was laying down while being stored while the plaza was constructed.

"This is the first time I've seen it standing up," he said.

David Anderson and the late Bill Matthews came up with the idea for the Singing River sculptures. Today, Anderson and Sandra Veters continue the efforts for the project, which is paid for through contributions.

The sculpture has a segmented appearance, which is something Veters said she likes because that means different parts of it will reflect sunlight in various ways.

"Every time we have a sunset it's going to pick up the light," she said.

Anderson said Nubbe created a small model of the sculpture years ago to get feedback from the public.

"We loved what he came up with," Anderson said. "We wanted it abstract. It was very well received."

Mayor Andy Betterton was on hand while the sculpture was being mounted.



The Singing River sculpture, portraying W.C. Handy, floats between two cranes during installation at the corner of North Court and Bluff Streets.

"I'm really pleased to see it going up," Betterton said. "I think it will reflect Florence's music heritage and relationship to the Blues."

The sculptures are meant to represent different genres of music that have existed during the Shoals' long, storied music history.

Singing River was the term Native Americans used to describe the Tennessee River in this area, due to the sound that was created when a breeze swept across the river's shoals.

The first sculpture, depicting a guitar player, was unveiled at Love Plaza on Montgomery Avenue in Sheffield in 2012.

Bassist David Hood, a member of the legendary Swampers rhythm section, was used as a model of for the Muscle Shoals sculpture, which was unveiled in 2014 on East Avalon Avenue between the city library and Muscle Shoals High School.

Tuscumbia's sculpture is in the process of being made, but no completion date has been set.



Workers use rope to position the Singing River sculpture as it is installed at the corner of North Court and Bluff Streets.



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10 MUST-SEE SITES

while visiting *the* Shoals

Let's say you only have a couple of days to visit the Shoals and you need some recommendations as to what sites to visit.

Here are our recommendations:

The Rosenbaum House, W.C. Handy home, Pope's Tavern, FAME recording studio, Muscle Shoals Sound Studios Museum, Ivy Green, Wilson Dam, Coon Dog Cemetery, Spring Park and the Railroad Depot Museum in Tusculmbia.



The Rosenbaum House

601 Riverview Drive, Florence

This is the opportunity to experience the work of Frank Lloyd Wright from inside the walls of one of the homes he designed. The 1,540-square-foot home is the only Wright-designed building in Alabama. It was created in a Usonian style that incorporates organic simplicity by bringing in the outdoors.



W.C. Handy Birthplace, Museum & Library

620 W. College St., Florence

The small log cabin where W.C. Handy, known as “Father of the Blues,” was born is part of an attraction that includes a museum and library containing books on Handy and his music, as well as black history and culture. Handy was born in the cabin Nov. 16, 1873, and died in New York in 1958.



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This building's history is intriguing, being a one-time stagecoach stop that later became a hospital for Union and Confederate troops at different times during the Civil War. Andrew Jackson is said to have stopped here on his march to the Battle of New Orleans. Today, artifacts from the 18th and 19th century are displayed in the home.



FAME Recording Studios

603 E. Avalon Ave.,
Muscle Shoals

This is a chance to visit the place where artists such as Aretha Franklin, Wilson Pickett, Etta James, Otis Redding, the Osmonds, Jerry Reed, Alabama and Mac Davis have recorded. All totaled, FAME has been involved in recording or publishing records that have sold over 350 million copies since opening its doors in Florence in 1959 and later moving across the river to Muscle Shoals.



Muscle Shoals Sound Studios Museum

3614 Jackson Highway, Sheffield

This is where The Swampers moved to when they left FAME Recording Studios in 1969. The original studio closed in 1978, but in 1999, it was purchased and brought back to life. Artists who recorded here included Cher, Rod Stewart, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Wilson Pickett, Bob Seger, and the Rolling Stones.



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Wilson Dam Road

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Ivy Green

*300 N. Commons St. W,
Tuscumbia*

The birthplace of Helen Keller also is the location where she famously learned sign language as a child when her teacher Anne Sullivan repeatedly spelled out “water” in Helen’s hand. The pump where Sullivan drew the water is part of the sprawling indoor and outdoor attraction.



Coon Dog Cemetery

Coondog Cemetery Road,
Cherokee

In 1937, Key Underwood honored his beloved hunting dog, Troop, by establishing the cemetery as his burial site. Today, it remains a unique attraction, where coon-dog owners continue the tradition of burying their pets there, beneath markers that range from small stones to large monuments.



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Tuscumbia Railway Depot Museum

204 W. Fifth St., Tuscumbia

This train depot was opened in 1888 and today has been renovated to precise specifications to make certain it retains its original look. It includes memorabilia inside the depot and train cars, a roundhouse and operating turntable on the grounds.

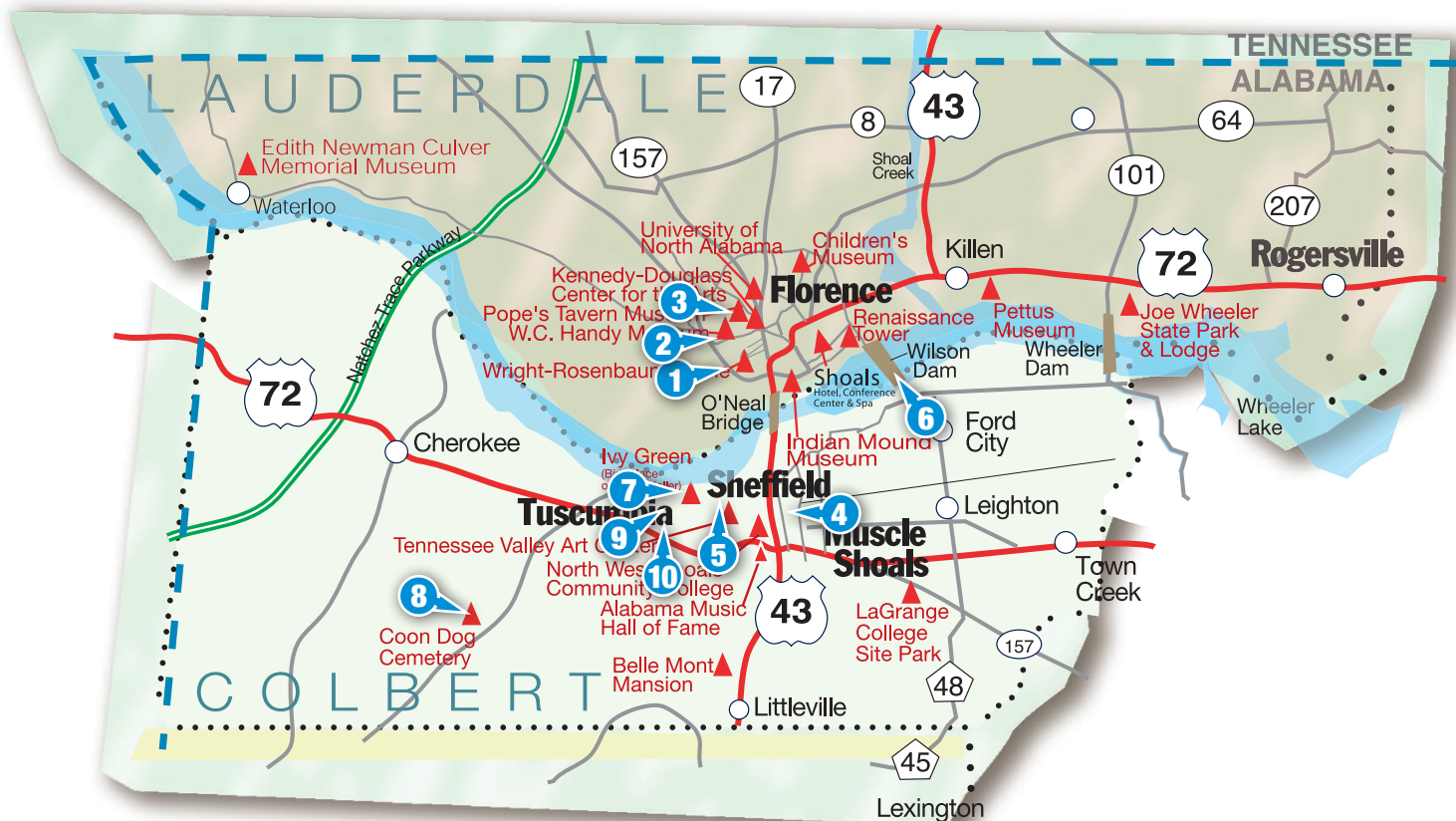


Spring Park

Off Main Street, Tuscumbia

The park, which draws its name from a large spring, features a small roller coaster, carousel, and train that travels throughout the park and waterfall leading into the spring. It also features a two-story open air shelter, several single-story pavilions with lights and power outlets, public restrooms and open spaces.





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256-764-0888 or 256-764-0896
116 E. 5th Street, Tuscumbia
256-381-9444**

Day Trips

Check out these nearby places

Natchez Trace Parkway

Nature is always on display with a visit to the Natchez Trace Parkway. Driving the parkway is a way to enjoy the beautiful colors of autumn, and the spring offers a peek at the first colors of a new year. The Trace connects Nashville with Natchez, Mississippi and attracts more visitors each year than any U.S. National Park except the Statue of Liberty. Access to the Natchez Trace is on Alabama 20, northwest of Florence, and on U.S. 72, near Cherokee, in Colbert County.



Photo by Merto.

U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville

Here's your opportunity to learn about the U.S. space program with space travel simulators and hands-on exhibits at the Space and Rocket Center. The center is recognized as one of the most comprehensive U.S. space museums in the world. Visitors can learn about north Alabama's role in putting man on the moon, the space race, the Apollo missions, the Space Shuttle program as well as the International Space Center. The facility is just off Interstate 565 at One Tranquility Base, Huntsville. 1-800-637-7223; rocketcenter.com.



PLACES TO SEE

A photograph of the exterior of The Stricklin Hotel, a multi-story building with a light-colored facade and many windows. A sign on the left side of the building reads "HOTEL". A black awning over the entrance features the text "THE STRICKLIN HOTEL" and the phone number "256-248-9982". A large "S" logo is visible in the foreground.

THE STRICKLIN HOTEL

256-248-9982 | reservations@thestricklin.com
317 North Court Street Florence, AL 35630

642119-1

A man is shown from the waist up, wearing a light blue suit jacket, a white shirt, and a white bow tie. He has a white flower boutonniere on his lapel. The background is a solid light blue color.

Coats Clothing Co.

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN
FLORENCE, AL

 122 N. COURT ST. • 256-760-0033

659229-1

Pond Spring

Home of Gen. Joe Wheeler

The home of Gen. Joe Wheeler, a former Confederate officer and longtime U.S. congressman, is a good day trip. The Wheeler home features many items of the family's clothing and furniture. Besides the home, other buildings on the site include original slave cabins, an old ice house, log barn and other plantation outbuildings. 256-637-8513; facebook.com/GeneralJoeWheelerHome



Cook Museum of Natural Science

is 'just down the road' from the Shoals

The 62,000-square-foot museum at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Lee Street in downtown Decatur features exhibit galleries, a retail store, a restaurant and event space.

It is one of the winners of the USA Today 2020 10 Best Readers' Choice Travel Award contest for Best New Museum. Cook Museum finished second out of 20 nominees across the United States and Canada.

The museum features at least 60,000 bees, a multitude of bugs and more than 260 other animals. It has seven aquatic tanks, including a 15,000-gallon saltwater tank.


256.351.4505; cookmuseum.org




Dismals Canyon

The Dismals Canyon is a privately owned 85-acre natural conservatory that was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1975 by the National Natural Landmarks Program. Its natural formations awe visitors and the secluded trails and woodlands feature a variety of vegetation and rock formations. Features also include a hiking trail, waterfalls, cabins, campsites and a country store. And if you visit during Alabama's sweltering summers, you'll immediately notice the cooling drop in temperature. Open weekends. 205-993-4559; dismalscanyon.com







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I'll Take You There

by Scott Campbell - 2023

Welcome to the Florence-Lauderdale Visitor Center.

We appreciate the time you are taking today to enjoy the history of our area portrayed through the mural in front of you.

Internationally renowned muralist, Scott Campbell, has created this masterpiece, which beautifully captures the spirit of The Shoals area. From our decorated music history to the mighty Singing River, Campbell has illustrated iconic landmarks that have played a pivotal role in our north Alabama culture.

We invite you to listen to all three audio segments to hear the historic narrative behind the mural.

By using your phone's camera, scan the QR code on this plaque to access the audio segments, or visit us at TheShoalsAL.com and type 'The Shoals Mural at McFarland Park' in the search bar.

Enjoy your journey through The Shoals!

@VisitTheShoalsAL



Scan me

Visitor Center at McFarland Park

The Florence-Lauderdale Tourism office is complemented by the Shoals music-themed mural that graces the east wall of the building in McFarland Park in Florence. The mural was painted by renowned graphic artist Scott Campbell. Three audio segments, which were produced by Big River Broadcasting and voiced by Jerry Phillips and Halley Phillips and Rodney Hall, can be heard by using your smart phone to scan the QR codes on a plaque on the east lawn near the mural.



Time to Eat



The Shoals has plenty of variety when it comes to the dining experience. Following is just a sample of local restaurants that offer great menus.

FAMILY

BIG BAD BREAKFAST

315 N. Court St., Florence;
256-415-8545; bigbadbreakfast.
com/locations/florence-alabama
7 a.m. to 2 p.m. seven day a week

The aprons were designed by renowned fashion icon Alabama Chanin, the sounds of Shoals-related music mingle with conversation and the tink of cutlery against plate, and there are so many breakfast combinations on the menu, you'll just camp out there – if they'd allow you. But if breakfast past 9 a.m. is not your thing, there are salads, sandwiches and wraps, too. Ingredients are locally sourced whenever possible and the chef overseeing Florence's newest eatery is passionate about laying a great table.

BOX CAR CAFÉ

220 N. Nashville Ave.,
Sheffield; 256-381-7437
5 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday
through Friday

Good variety on its breakfast menu. A recent sample of lunch, which is served beginning at 10 a.m., was meatloaf, salmon, grilled porkchop, chicken and dumplings, vegetables, salad and bread. Desserts served, too.

CAFÉ 222

256-284-7392
222 North Court Street
Florence, AL 35630
Mon-Fri 10am-2pm

Offering cafeteria style entrees and sides, as well as freshly prepared packaged salads and sandwiches. Specialty desserts, including fresh baked croissants, cakes, cupcakes, and cookies.

CHAMPY'S FAMOUS FRIED CHICKEN

120 2nd St, Muscle Shoals;
256-389-9985
Everyday 10:30am-10pm,



CHICKEN SALAD CHICK

chickensaladchick.com/florence
256-257-0042
363 Cox Creek Parkway
Florence, AL 35630
Mon-Sat 10am-8pm
Drive-Thru Available

CLAUNCH CAFÉ

400 S. Main St., Tuscumbia;
256-386-0222;

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Sun-Thur.
Claunch Café specializes in down home Southern cooking. Diners can sit inside the glassed in porch and look out at the beauty of Spring Park. In the summer months, the glass is removed and only the screens remain. The chicken salad plate is a must-try – it's Claunch's signature dish.

COLDWATER CAFÉ

3810 Hatch Blvd., Sheffield;
256-381-9633
10:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon - Fri

ESTHER'S EATERY

www.esthersedeatery.com
256-349-5231
1416 Huntsville Road
Florence, AL 35630
Mon-Fri 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat
11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Signature Bowls, Create Your Own, Baked Goods & More! Just opened in June 2020!

GARDEN GATE

701 Avalon Ave.
Muscle Shoals; 256-383-6905;
Mon-Fri, 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Garden Gate serves home cooking in generous helpings that include fare like fried chicken, beef tips and rice, slow cooked pork roast, chicken and dumplings and home-style veggies like grandma used to cook: turnip greens, potatoes and gravy, green beans, corn, fried okra, purple hull peas or white beans.

HOMESIDE RESTAURANT

CLOVERDALE RD.
3922 Cloverdale Rd, Florence;
256-768-1138;

Mon-Fri 7 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat &
Sun 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Homeside Restaurant serves country cooking just like your grandmother used to make. The service is down home. They know you by name and treat you like family.

The restaurant has rotating meat specials Monday through Thursday and then offers all you can eat fish on Friday. In addition to the specialty meats, it serves various vegetables from cabbage to black eyed peas and green beans to broccoli & rice casserole. If a meat and vegetable option is not what you're hungry for, it also offers breakfast all day, seafood, burgers, fresh made salads and steaks along with a wide variety of desserts.

HOMESIDE RESTAURANT

HUNTSVILLE RD.
4220 Huntsville Rd, Florence;
256-367-4953;

Mon-Sun 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

Homeside Restaurant serves country cooking just like your grandmother used to make. Bring the kids & stay awhile. The atmosphere is welcoming and kid friendly. There is a party room available for reservations.

The restaurant has rotating meat specials Monday through Thursday and then offers all you can eat fish on Friday. In addition to the specialty meats, it serves various vegetables from fried okra to slaw and baked beans to macaroni & cheese. If a meat and vegetable option is not what you're hungry for, it also offers breakfast all day, burgers and fresh made salads.

NANNY D'S RESTAURANT

FLORENCE
3609 Cloverdale Rd, Florence;
256-766-6222;
Mon-Fri 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m. Sun
10:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Mama Jean's is located in the Petersville community. It serves Southern-style food six days a week. It offers Southern meats on various days like boneless fried chicken, meatloaf, chicken livers and fried pork chops with gravy. It offers several vegetables and breads as well as a wide variety of desserts.

MOMMA JEAN'S RESTAURANT

TUSCUMBIA
2325 Highway 20, Tuscumbia;
256-381-7001;

Mon 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Tues-Fri 8
a.m.-8 p.m. Sun 8 a.m.-3 p.m.

Momma Jeans is family owned and operated. Three sisters started the Bread Basket in Cherokee in 1983, so there's a lot of good ole country cooking under Momma's belt. It serves Southern-style food six days a week. It offers Southern meats on various days like pork roast, country fried steak, meatloaf and fried chicken livers. It offers several vegetables and breads as well as a wide variety of desserts.

ODETTE

120 N. Court Street, Florence;
256-349-5219; odettealabama.com
Tues-Thurs 5 p.m.-9:30 p.m.;
Fri 5 p.m.-11 p.m.; Sat 11 a.m.-3
p.m. for brunch; 5 p.m.-11 p.m.
for dinner.

Odette bills itself as serving "elevated American fare with Southern and international influences." Menu items feature locally- and sustainable-sourced ingredients. The atmosphere is contemporary and relaxed. It's a local favorite

RATTLESNAKE SALOON

1292 Mount Mills Road,
Tuscumbia; 256-370-7220;
Reservations must be booked
before 4:45 p.m. by calling 256-
370-7218; rattlesnakesaloon.net
11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursday
through Saturday (Feb.-Nov.);
11 .m. to 3 p.m., Sunday (April-
Sept.)

You've got to see this restaurant. There's a reason it bills itself as "the watering hole under the rock." This is a very popular restaurant. See the website for reservation rules.

RAY'S AT THE BANK

1411 Huntsville Road,
Florence; 256-275-7716
Wed & Thurs 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
and 5 p.m.-9 p.m.; Fri & Sat 11
a.m.-3 p.m. and 5 p.m.-10 p.m.

Good regional fare in this new restaurant in east Florence. The building has been renovated to expose brick walls that adds warmth and charm to the dining experience, which features sandwiches (smoked gouda pimiento cheese sounds good), slow smokes pork brisket, ribs and chicken, and soups and salads.

STANFIELD'S RIVER BOTTOM GRILLE

Florence Harbor; 256-768-1721; riverbottomgrille.com
Tues-Thurs 11 a.m.-9 p.m. and Fri-Sat 11 a.m.-10 p.m.
It's the only floating restaurant in the Shoals. The view of Florence Harbor surrounds you in this casual dining spot. When the weather permits, take a table on the deck and drink in the ambiance of the Tennessee River lifestyle. The menu is long and varied. The Stanfield's Steamer Bucket of seafood is a favorite.

STEW SHACK

4728 Hwy 207, Anderson, 256-247-7988
Tue.-Sun. 10:30am-9pm

SUPERHERO CHEF'S

256-320-7349
104 S Main Street
Tusculum, Alabama 35674
www.superherochefs.com
Tue-Sat 7 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun 7 a.m.-5 p.m.
Superhero Chefs is the brain child of celebrity chef Darnell Ferguson. Serving urban eclectic American dishes with a twist. From our amazing Sub-Zero blueberry pancakes with lemon-marscapone cheese to our 1-inch thick handcrafted burgers, you are sure to find something to love at Superhero Chefs!

SWEET BASIL CAFÉ

1627 Darby Drive, Florence; 256-764-5991; Facebook
9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon-Fri, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sat
Choose from an assortment of sandwiches or opt for the lunch plate special. Or order a "super foods salad" featuring kale, Brussels sprouts, cabbage and chichory, carrots, dried cranberries and all kinds of yummy ingredients with a hone-lime dressing. The eatery is also a market, so take advantage of its leisurely atmosphere and browse.

SWAMPERS BAR AND GRILL

1 Hightower Place, inside the Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa; 256-246-3600;
Mon-Thur 6:30 a.m.-11 p.m.;

Fri 6:30 a.m.-12 a.m.; Sat 7 a.m.-12 a.m.; Sun 7 a.m.-11 p.m.

This Florence eatery features casual dining in an elegant setting with a comfortable lounge and outdoor patio for diners to enjoy. Swampers serves breakfast, lunch and dinner featuring classic American fare. The interior honors Alabama's rich cultural heritage.

BAR and GRILL

ON THE ROCKS

110 N. Court St., Florence; 256-760-2212; florenceontherocks.com

4 p.m. to 2 a.m.
Full menu for lunch and dinner includes pub-like menu items like hot wings, nachos, burgers and sandwiches, grilled mahi mahi, and steak. It is a favorite spot for live music and for dining and late socializing in the heart of historic downtown Florence.

FLOBAMA

311 N. Court St., Florence; 256-764-2225;
11 a.m. to 2 a.m. Tuesday through Saturday
Another of downtown Florence's dining and late socializing venues, FloBama's menu features hickory smoked beef and pork as well as chicken, salads, wraps. There's Tuesday karaoke, open mic, and live music.

MUGSHOTS GRILL AND BAR

321 N. Court St., Florence; 256-415-8335
mugshotsgillandbar.com
11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

Located in the heart of downtown Florence, this restaurant will offer dine-in/out, take-out, curbside, pickup, catering, and delivery services. The menu consists of appetizers, burgers, sandwiches, pasta and more.

SAM'S SPORTS GRILL

www.samssportsgrill.com
256-349-2300
339 Seville St, Florence, AL
Sun-Thur 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Fri & Sat 11 a.m.-11 p.m.

We took the philosophy "if we are going to do it, let's do it right". We apply this philosophy to all areas of the restaurant including food, service and sports. We know we are only as good as your last visit, that's why our whole team is committed to your complete satisfaction and if we fall short please bring it to our attention. food, service and sports. Our hard work has paid off as we have been voted 'best sports grill' for 14 years by the readers of the Nashville Scene Magazine.

THE BOILER ROOM

313 N. Court St., Florence; 256-693-0074; Mon-Thur 5 p.m.-10 p.m. Fri & Sat 5 p.m.-12 a.m.

This a place for people to come and be themselves with a collection of games as well as food & beverages to enjoy. Explore an evening filled with bowling, live music, shuffleboard, darts, skeeball, foosball and made-from-scratch dining.

VOODOO WING COMPANY

310 Cypress Mill Rd, Florence; 256-275-3710
Voodoowingco.com
10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays; 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays

Pick how many traditional or boneless wings you want, select your flavor and/or temperature and your favorite dipping sauce. You can also order a side or two. If you still have room there are a few desserts to choose from.

WILDWOOD TAVERN

108 E. Mobile St., Florence; 256-349-2139;

Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-2 a.m. and Sunday Noon until 2 a.m.

Wildwood Tavern is an eclectic pub in downtown Florence. It serves all-natural beef hot dogs, locally sourced bratwurst, unique sandwiches, flatbread pizzas, seasonal microbrews and craft cocktails all paired with a hand selected jukebox, shuffleboard table, outdoor patio, good conversation and smiling faces. It offers a quick and affordable lunch. Happy Hour is from 3 p.m. until 7p.m. every day and features \$1 off select drinks and food.

FINE DINING/ STEAKS/ SEAFOOD

360 GRILLE

10 Hightower Place, Florence; 256-246-3600;

Mon-Sat 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; reservations are required

The 360 Grille, located atop the Renaissance Tower at the 4-star Marriott Shoals Hotel and Spa, offers spectacular views of the Tennessee Valley and hails as Alabama's only revolving restaurant.

The menu features regional American cuisine with a commitment to locally grown produce, sustainable farming practices and seasonality. A five course chef's tasting offers innovative takes on some classics, while the a la carte menu presents refined renditions of Southern favorites.

GEORGE'S STEAK PIT

1206 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield; 256-381-1531; georgessteakpit.com

Tue-Thur 4:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Fri & Sat 4:30 p.m.-10 p.m.

(reservations are recommended)
Known throughout the Shoals, this establishment remains an area classic. Diners enjoy a selection of fine wines to complement their meal of choice. Menu appetizers include Oysters Rockefeller, Fried Calamari and the Greek Tray. Steaks are cooked over a wood-fire grill.

JACK'S PLACE

118 W. Mobile St., Florence; 256-349-5429; jacksplacebistro.com

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-9 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5-10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

You've seen Chef Jack White's work. The actor turned food stylist has worked in more than 100 movies and TV shows including "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo," "Saving Grace," and "The Hunger Games" series. For brunch or lunch, you'll find mouth-watering selections that include Eggs Benedict three ways, frittata or quiche of the day, Belgian waffles and French toast, or maybe you would prefer a spinach salad or tarragon chicken salad. "Sandwiches and such" include Panini, wraps, a meatball hoagie or burgers, with the "such" including brisket, panko encrusted pork tenderloin, pasta and flatbreads. The dinner menu includes main courses of hand-cut ribeye and braised pork shank among many dishes that will please all appetites.



Mugshots Grill and Bar

RED CLAY TABLE

307 N. Montgomery Ave,
Sheffield, 256-320-5500
Mon-Wed 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Thur
11 a.m.-8 p.m. Fri 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Sat 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

STANFIELD'S

4838 Hatch Blvd, Sheffield;
256-446-5588;
Tue-Thur 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. Fri
& Sat 10:30 a.m.-10 p.m.
Stanfield's specializes in
homemade foods and impeccable
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FISH

CURTIS'

8050 Hwy 43, Florence, 256-
757-9066
Tue.-Sun. 10am-9pm

FISH CREEL

7810 Hwy 207, Anderson, 256-
247-0969
Sun.-Thur. 10:30am-8pm
Fri. and Sat. 10:30am-9pm

NEWBURN'S

3406 Florence Blvd., Florence;
256-766-6866
Wed-Sat 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
Known for the best catfish in
North Alabama.

WALTON'S RESTAURANT

1205 Hwy 101, Rogersville,
256-247-0696
Tue.-Sat. 10am-9pm

BARBEQUE

BIG MAN'S BARBECUE

1510 N. Pine St., Florence; 938-
368-2502
10:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Wednesdays
through Saturdays
This barbecue house offers
a variety of meats from pulled
pork to brisket. You can have it
on a plate, a sandwich or just
by itself. It also offers plenty of
sides, salads, loaded potatoes and
nachos. The restaurant has also
been known to come up with
some specialty sandwiches, so be
on the lookout by checking out
what's new on its Facebook page.

BUNYAN'S BARBECUE

901 W. College St., Florence; 256-
766-3522; bunyansbarbecue.com
This is a favorite among
locals for pulled barbecue pork
sandwiches and hotdogs with
Bunyan's famous slaw, hot or mild.
Chicken is also on the menu. Order
ahead and pack a picnic lunch. Eat
in or take out.

DICK HOWELL'S BBQ

1350 N. Pine St. Florence; 256-
767-5830;
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday
through Saturday;
In addition to a smoked
barbecue sandwich, try the rib
plate, smoke turkey sandwich or
stuffed baked potato with meat.
The mouthwatering menu has
something for every taste.

RICK'S BBQ

www.ricksbbq.com
Alabama Locations
Muscle Shoals-2405 Woodward
Ave, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661
Florence-212 Cox Creek Pkwy,
Florence, AL 35630

Sky Park-4260 Florence Blvd,
Florence, AL 35634
Madison-7929 Hwy 72 W
Madison, AL 35758
Wilson Dam-2408 S. Wilson
Damn Rd, Muscle Shoals, AL
35661
Tennessee Locations
Lawrenceburg-1507 N. Locust
Ave Lawrenceburg, TN 38464
Commissary-2366 Hwy 43 S.
Leoma, TN 38469
Fayetteville-1419 Huntsville
Hwy, Fayetteville, TN 37334
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that blood, sweat, and tears
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lot of time, hard work, and pure
dedication goes into our process
and we're beyond proud of the



Bunyan's Bar-B-Q

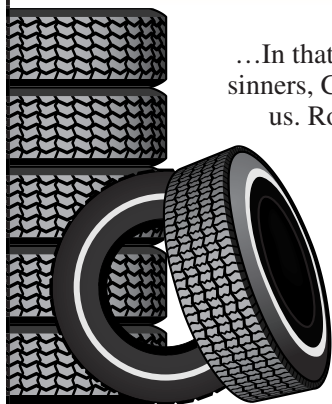
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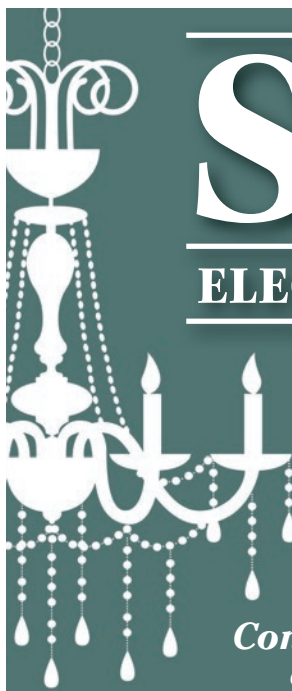
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smoked meats since 1979

ICE CREAM/ SANDWICHES

SOUL WINGERY & RECORDS

1055 Poplar St., Florence; 256-275-7434

Tues & Wed 11 a.m.-4 p.m.;
Thurs-Sat 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Love wings? Soul, as it's fondly referred to, is tucked in on a side street and has limited space, but you won't mind at all once you taste their wings. There are 10 flavors on the menu – you'll want to work your way through them all and start over again.

TROWBRIDGE'S

316 N. Court St., Florence;
256-764-1503

Mon-Sat 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
In the heart of historic downtown Florence, this shop features handmade shakes, sundaes, and sandwiches.

MEXICAN

CASA MEXICANA

11000 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield;
256-381-5397; 550 Brighton Ave.,
Muscle Shoals, 256-383-4434;
2801 Mall Drive, Florence; 256-767-2750

Traditional Mexican food with starters of chips and salsa are served upon being seated. There is a wide variety of delicious Mexican fare. Popular dishes include taco salads and fajitas.

EL POLLITO LOCO- THE CRAZY LITTLE CHICKEN

www.thecrazylittlechicken.com
256-275-3851
1403 Chisholm Road
Florence, AL 35630
Mon-Sat 11am-10pm
Sunday 11am-4pm

LA HACIENDA MEXICAN RESTAURANT

153 Cox Creek Parkway, Florence;
256-764-3532

Munch on chips and salsa as you choose a meal from the extensive list of offerings or order a drink from the full bar.

FIESTA MEXICANA (SEVERAL LOCATIONS)

1550 Florence Blvd., 256-766-0100; 3364 Cloverdale Road,
Florence, 256-178-6843; 3721
Florence Blvd., 256-272-8444; 41
Market Square, Rogersville, 256-247-6180; 517 Avalon Ave. E., Muscle Shoals; 256-389-8282; 4001 N. Jackson Hwy, Sheffield; 256-248-4279

ROSIE'S MEXICAN CANTINA

302 N. Court St., downtown
Florence; 256-767-5599;
rosiesmexicancantina.com

Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 11

a.m. to 10 p.m.

The go-to for Mexican food and a fun atmosphere in historic downtown Florence. Create your own custom combo platter or order from the long and varied menu of traditional fare, or soup, salads and appetizers.

TACO MAMA

Tacomamaonline.com
256-712-4434

121 Cherry Street, Florence, AL
Mon-Sat 11am-9pm; Sun 11am-8pm

At Taco Mama, we believe that our guests eat with all of their senses which is why we hand-pick the music you hear in the restaurant. So, it always



Trowbridge's



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637 Cave Road, Woodville, AL 35776

made sense that Taco Mama would find a home in The Shoals. Whether it's the special sound of Fame Studios in Muscle Shoals, or W.C. Handy's genre-defining blues, or Jason Isbell and The 400 Unit's brand of Americana-Southern Rock-Alt Country – Florence and The Shoals area has always kept the rhythm of its Southern Soul.

ASIAN

ICHIBAN

1207 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield;
256-389-9888; iloveichiban.com
Mon-Thur 11 a.m.-3 p.m. for
lunch and 4:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m. for

dinner; Fri & Sat 11 a.m.-10 p.m.;
Sun 11 a.m.-9:30 p.m.

Japanese dishes featuring
Sushi, a variety of rolls, soups,
salads and appetizers.

UMI JAPANESE STEAK HOUSE

201 N. Cox Creek Pkwy.,
Florence; 256-718-6868;
umijapanese steakhouse.com

11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., then 4:30-
10 p.m. Monday through Friday;
11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Saturday; 11
a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sunday

Traditional and exotic Japanese
cuisine including sushi, sashimi,
teriyaki, tempura and hibachi
food.

RICE BOX

1529 N. Wood Ave., Florence;
256-767-6752

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday-
Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Friday and Saturday.

Asian cuisine in a casual
setting, specializing in Chinese
and Japanese food, the menu
items reflect the tastes and
traditions of both countries.

YUMM

117 N. Court St.,
Florence; 256-349-2074;
yummtaisushiandbeyond.com

11 a.m. to 2 p.m., then 5-9
p.m. Monday through Thursday;
11 a.m. to 2 p.m., then 5-10 p.m.
Friday and Saturday

Sushi and Thai cuisine and
everything beyond – mild or spicy and
artistically prepared. Eat indoors or
alfresco in historic downtown Florence.

CAJUN and CREOLE

CAJUNS

4301 Jackson Hwy., Sheffield;
256-381-1573

Wed & Thur 3 p.m.-10 p.m. Fri
& Sat 3 p.m.-11 p.m.

Cajun-flavored food in a
relaxed environment, with
delicacies such as fried oysters

and shrimp, red beans and rice,
frog legs, corn and potatoes.
Menu also offers regular fare.

ITALIAN PIZZA SPECIALTY

HOMETOWN PIZZA

400 Woodward Ave. Muscle
Shoals; 256-978-5507

Mon-Sat 10 a.m.-9 p.m. and
Sunday 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

LIL CAPONE'S ITALIAN BAR & GRILL

256-275-7603
www.lilcapones.com
3370 Cloverdale Road,
Florence, AL

125 Cox Creek Pkwy South,
Florence, AL

Pizza, Calzones, Subs, Pastas,
Wings and More!
Low Carb menu options.

LOST PIZZA CO.

201 N. Seminary St., Florence;
256-415-8693;

Every day 11 a.m.-9 p.m.
Lost Pizza Co. is a funky, laid-
back joint with good music, great
food made from scratch and some
of the coldest beverages in town.
You can sit inside or enjoy the
fresh air out on the covered patio.



Rosie's Mexican Cantina



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RICATONI'S ITALIAN GRILL

107 N. Court Street, Florence;
 256-718-1002

11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday
 through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 10
 p.m. Fri and Sat

The historic building has
 exposed brick walls and diners
 love the fresh bread and saucer
 of herbs and oil as a starter.
 Traditional Italian fare with
 handmade pizzas baked in a
 wood fire oven.

THE PIE FACTORY

106 N. Court St., Florence; 256-
 275-3248; and 3312 Woodward
 Ave., Muscle Shoals; 256-314-
 2622; pizzapiefactory.com

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday
 through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11
 p.m. Fri and Sat

They make their own dough in
 house and you can choose from a
 variety of savory sauces, cheeses
 and toppings or choose one of
 their specialty pizzas and a craft
 beer brewed in Alabama.

THE CHICAGO CAFÉ

106 E. Mobile St., Florence;
 256-710-3607;

Mon-Thur and Sunday 11 a.m.
 - 2 a.m. and Fri and Sat 11 a.m.-
 3 a.m.

11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday
 through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11
 p.m. Fri and Sat

The Chicago Cafe is located
 in downtown Florence. Its menu
 features all-natural black angus beef
 hot dogs, locally sourced organic
 bratwursts, flatbread pizza that is
 made fresh to order, and sandwiches
 that are toasted to perfection. The
 café will have a hot dog of the
 month like the "Big McDog" or the
 Currywurst Dog. It also serves up
 a special dog on certain holidays
 like the Bangers & Mash Dog on
 St. Patrick's Day. You can dine in or
 take out dinners. It says it's the best
 late-night food in town until 3 a.m.
 on Fridays and Saturdays.

COFFEE HOUSE/ BISTRO

ALABAMA BLISS AND BISTRO

2108 S. Wilson Dam Rd., Muscle
 Shoals, 256-248-4530;

10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday

How about a picnic lunch while
 you're here? Try the grilled triple
 cheese pimento cheese and bacon,
 or the roasted chicken salad, or one
 of salads with a cup of soup or slice
 of homemade quiche. You can enjoy
 a Bliss meal there or take it with you
 knowing it has been prepared fresh
 onsite. Staying with family or friends
 and want to contribute to the home
 meal? Bliss offers a variety of take-
 home dishes ready to just pop in the
 oven.

CHARLIE'S COFFEE CO.

506 N. Main St., Tuscumbia
 256-320-5230
 6:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday;
 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday

COMPANION COFFEE ROASTERS

1210 N. Wood Ave., Florence
 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8
 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday

GROUNDHOG COFFEE CO.

320 N. Montgomery Ave.,
 Sheffield
 256-633-7444
 7 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8
 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Sunday

LIZZIES PLACE COFFEE

754 Cox Creek Parkway,
 Florence
 256-349-2752
 7 a.m.-8 p.m. Monday-Saturday;
 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday

MIMZIE'S COFFEE & CURIOSITIES

16426 U.S. Highway 72,
 Rogersville
 256-668-6364
 6 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday;
 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday

RIVERTOWN COFFEE COMPANY

117 N. Seminary St., Florence
 765-7128; rivertowncoffee.co
 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday-
 Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday,
 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday
 Muffin or breakfast wrap
 with a cup of Mule Town Coffee
 shipped in weekly from Columbia
 Tennessee are favorites. Also serves
 lunch that includes their famous
 Panini and soup of the day.

THE COFFEE PLACE

1562 Florence Blvd., Florence
 256-712-5347
 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-
 Wednesday; 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Thursday-Friday; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Saturday
 710 E. 6th St., Muscle Shoals
 256-314-2226
 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-
 Wednesday; 7 a.m.-6 p.m.
 Thursday-Friday; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
 Saturday

TURBO COFFEE

310 E. Tennessee St., Florence;
 256-483-1501; Facebook page
 Hours: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
 Monday through Friday; 8 a.m. to
 5 p.m. Saturday
 Coffee shop that also serves
 food and smoothies.



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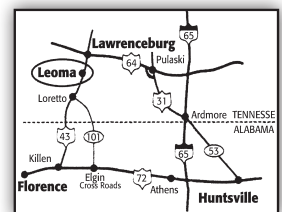


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